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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 41

Available from Wednesday,
June 18, 2008**MOTORING...****VW Passat offers
a high-class drive**

PAGES 33-36

**JOBs...****Helping you make
the right choice**

PAGES 37-41

**SPORTS...****Round-up of all
the latest action**

PAGES 46-47



COLLEGE: WE WILL MAKE THE GRADE

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ALSO INSIDE

- COMPETITION** PAGE 14
- LETTERS** PAGES 16-17
- LEISURE** PAGES 18-28
- CLASSIFIED** PAGES 43-44
- BUSINESS** PAGE 45

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■ BY ED HILL

SOUTH Kent College chiefs say they are determined to turn its fortunes around despite a damning report from government inspectors which slammed it as 'inadequate'.

But big changes are likely and a merger with another college looks on the cards as it looks to rebuild its shattered reputation.

In an Ofsted report issued last week, following a visit in April, the inspectors fiercely criticised its management, financial situation and the achievement levels of its students.

The report said: "South Kent College is an inadequate college with inadequate capacity to improve. Achievement and standards are inadequate."

"Success rates are low and declining for learners aged 16 to 18 at all levels, who account for the majority of the college's full-time equivalent learners."

"Achievement rates are particularly low at all levels and for all age groups."

The college, which has campuses in Jemmett Road, Folkestone, Dover, and includes the Ashford School of Art and Design, caters for more than 10,000 students.

A new management team and board of governors were drafted in last year after a previous bad report. They have set about a restructure.

The Learning Skills Council, the government body which funds the college, also called in management consultancy KPMG to weigh up its options.

The findings of that resulted in the announcement yesterday afternoon it was considering a merger either with Tonbridge-based West Kent College or Sussex Downs in Lewes.

That would mean the college continues to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



DAME KELLY OPENS UP GAMES

Double Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes was the celebrity guest to open the Kent School Games at the Julie Rose Stadium on Saturday.

The 800 and 1,500-metre champion joined dignitaries to launch a series of competitions which will see children across the county getting involved.

Around 30,000 young people from Kent's schools have been competing in 14 sports, building up to the finals taking place around the county this month.

WHAT'S ON & WATCH yourkenttv.co.uk TOP TV CLIPS



1 Tom Howard meets team JOTA ahead of the Le Mans 24-hour race. See sport channel@Yourkenttv.co.uk



2 Catch up with the highlights from the Sellindge Music Festival. See leisure channel@Yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Steve Loader, motors editor, casts his expert eye over the Freelander 2. See motors channel@Yourkenttv.co.uk

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PLANS: The proposed junction 10a would pass through Wyevale Garden Centre

Motorway plan gets attacked by the Greens

■ BY ED HILL

GREEN Party chiefs have slammed proposals for another junction off the M20 claiming it could spark the development of green-field sites.

As plans went on show at the weekend for junction 10a, planners behind the scheme also confirmed the turn-off would in no way link to the proposed lorry park at Aldington.

The Highways Agency says the junction will deal with the increased congestion as the town expands, allowing quicker access to South Ashford and alleviating the strain on junction 10.

Plans on show at the chamber of commerce over the weekend revealed the junction would be just yards from junction 10 and covering a site occupied by the Wyevale Garden Centre on the A20 Hythe Road.

It would link the motorway with the A2070 through Sevington.

Graham Link, project manager from the Highways Agency told Yourashford: "This does not tie in with the lorry park. This project is to help facilitate the development in South Ashford. If the junction was any further south to incorporate

access to a lorry park, it would not give the benefits for access to the south of the town."

However, the plans have been attacked by the Green Party.

Spokesman Steve Dawe said: "This would create a vast orbital road which would encompass an area of green fields and several villages.

"We fear this would then be built over as developers would have access to sites previously unreachable.

"Ashford would expand – in effect to fill in a gap. This is something we strongly oppose as it would result in the loss of an area of outstandingly beautiful countryside as well as important agricultural land."

The Highways Agency put on two exhibitions over the weekend to gauge local reaction. It hopes if the planning process goes smoothly it will complete the junction by 2013.

Mr Link said: "We welcome comments on our online questionnaire by September 5."

He also said that the agency estimates the junction will take around a year to complete.

Mr Dawe added: "We urge people to object by filling in the questionnaire. We oppose further expansion of Ashford and we object to the loss of agricultural land to road building."

Details can be found at the website www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/5703.aspx.

College needs to transform finances too

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

operate but under the wing of the other institutions.

But interim principal Alan Harrison said he was determined to turn its fortunes around. He said: "Whatever the decision the governors of SKC make about the merger, the provision of teaching and learning will continue on our patch and the agenda of recovery and improvement continues."

"The best way of securing a future is by showing just how good we can be in the delivery of teaching and learning for all those we serve."

Cost-cutting measures are likely in a bid to reduce its £1.59m deficit recorded for 2006/7 – a financial situation the Ofsted report highlighted.

It said: "The college does not have a clear strategic direction and performance in most areas of the provision is poor and declining."

"A revised management structure is starting to make roles and responsibilities clearer and staff morale is high. Financial management is poor and governors have failed to monitor college performance with sufficient rigour."

"The college continues to be in a vulnerable financial position with a significant deficit and provides inadequate value for money."

Principal Alan Harrison will leave the post at the end of June with a replacement already lined-up but not yet announced.

A decision on the merger will be made in September and, if it goes ahead, completed by August 2009.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Birthday honour for comedian

PAUL O'Grady has received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The comedian, who lives in Aldington, has been given the award for services to entertainment.

Mr O'Grady began his career as the loud-mouthed Birkenhead blonde Lily Savage.

In recent years he has dropped the character and now presents his daily show on Channel Four.

In 2006 he was listed in the Guardian's 50 most powerful people in the media.

Retail therapy at its best...



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Pubs pay high price for England's failure

BY NICK AMES

ENGLAND's failure to reach the finals of Euro 2008 has put the entire future of televised football down the local at risk, say landlords left counting the cost.

The cost of screening Sky TV – £500 per month and over for businesses – has usually been offset by increased drink sales during big games by landlords looking to balance the books; regardless of the channel the games are on.

And the main ones are England matches in big tournaments.

But the failure of the team to qualify for this summer's championships has left pubs empty and landlords failing to rake in the cash.

Some say it could have cost them up to £8,000 because of the Three Lions' failure to reach the finals in Austria and Switzerland, which reaches the quarter-final stages tomorrow.

Trevor Farrier of the British Volunteer, in New Street, said: "Although the games are on BBC and ITV it's a tradition for people to watch England matches with their mates in the pub.

"Short of being there it's the best atmosphere there is.

"This year fans don't have that choice and to be frank no-one is interested. We could have had a great three weeks but so far it has been disastrous."

The increased take from football games – on ITV, BBC or satellite – helps me to pay for Sky. But it's so expensive now and with so few people turning up this summer I'm thinking of getting rid of it as I can no longer afford the outlay.



TURKISH DELIGHT: While the likes of Turkey are cashing in on Euro 2008 pubs in the area are counting the cost

"The only saving grace for me is if Holland win – I've got them in a sweepstake."

Clive Guest runs the Locomotive pub in South Ashford which is very popular with football fans.

He said: "As a sports pub I would expect during a major tournament to have a pub full of football fans at least once a week."

"But this has just not been the case as the interest levels have just not been there."

"We are a sports pub – others may be music pubs or something else, but we depend on sport and especially football to keep us going."

In some pubs which have TV screens matches have proved so unpopular drinkers have actually asked them to be turned off.

Debbie Smith from The Star in East Hill said: "It's been so quiet – you wouldn't even know there was a big tournament on."

Guess what? Here comes another road scheme...

A £16.5 million scheme to ease town centre congestion and provide better road access to Tenterden has come a step closer.

The Victoria Way project will also ease jams on the ring road as well as divert traffic away from the busy town centre and create a link to junction nine of the M20.

The project is included in a £124 million bid by the South East England Regional Transport Board to deliver 15 new projects to support housing growth areas.

Andy Phillips, head of transport at Ashford's Future said: "Victoria Way is a proposed new route to the south of the town centre.

It will link the A2042 Romney Marsh Road to the A28 Chart Road, taking through traffic away from the town and supporting a complete transformation of the inner ring road and new developments as part of the town centre's expansion."

Developers have promised that disruption during construction will be kept to a minimum as the work will be away from major routes which are heavily used.

Atmosphere is mounting as carnival arrives

THE countdown to Ashford Carnival on July 13 has begun with a string of activities lined-up over the weekend.

On Saturday, July 12, the town will celebrate its tenth Folk Day in the town centre with a host of live music and entertainment.

And on the day itself, the Sunday, there will be street entertainment and face painting to please the thousands of people expected to turn out to watch the fun.

Now in its 34th year, the event, organised by Terry and Brenda Dickinson, promises to be one of the most spectacular for some time.

Viv Kenny, Ashford Town Centre Partnership co-ordinator, said: "We want to get everyone in the mood for carnival and the music events we are planning will help to do that.

"It should be a very lively weekend

with everyone getting into the right frame of mind for one of the biggest events of the year and one that Ashford is well known for.

"Throughout the days the town and its residents will be building up to the arrival of the floats.

"Last year the whole place was buzzing in the run up to carnival and during the parade itself and this year we are hoping for the same sort of excitement to be generated."

The carnival sets up and judging takes place in Stanhope at 3pm and the parade commences at 4pm. An hour later it will be in the middle of the town.

There is still time to register and take part by calling the Ashford Town Centre Partnership on 01233 664410 or emailing info@ashfordtco.co.uk.

Capital run for bullet train in 32 minutes

A BULLET train set to go into operation next year has recorded a journey time of just 32 minutes from Ashford to London.

The Hitachi high-speed locomotive was on a test run between the International Station and St Pancras when it clocked the time – five minutes less than that which operators Southeastern have predicted for the passenger service which starts in December 2009.

The journey was part of a process by the rail company to examine the efficiency of the new line – called High Speed One.

It tested acceleration, performance and breaking on the Japanese built Class 395 Javelin which boasts a 140 mph top speed.

The journey took under half that of the fastest train on the route.

A Southeastern spokesman said: "There will be a premium price on the service, that we have all agreed on. However, we need to work out exactly what the price structure will be. We do not want to make it too expensive as that will defeat the purpose and price customers out of the market."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Art display to help fund work on church murals

AN ART festival is to be staged in Challock Church to raise funds for the restoration of murals dating from 1951 on July 26 and 27.

Local artists will have work on display and it will be available for viewers to buy.

The Lady Chapel Murals were painted to celebrate the restoration of the picturesque church after World War Two and inspired later works by celebrated artists John Ward and Gordon Davies.

The organisers are hoping to raise £15,000.

New Co-op to focus on fresh food and Fairtrade

FRESH foods and Fairtrade products will be the main emphasis at the revamped Co-op store in Kennington which has just undergone a £70,000 refit.

There will also be a 20 per cent increase in the range of products on offer at the stores on Faversham Road, with an increase in the selection of beers and wines with an in-house kitchen baking fresh breads and pastries.

"The emphasis will be on chilled and fresh products on offer for our customers," said a Co-op spokeswoman.

Mystery auction bids to help neglected children

A TOTAL of £20,000 was raised as a mystery auction was held to raise funds for children's charity The Caldecott Foundation in Smeeth, which helps young people who have suffered cruelty or neglect.

The works of art offered to around 60 guests were all anonymous – bidders did not know whether they were going to get something by a renowned artist or one produced by a child helped by the foundation.

Leading artists who donated works to the cause included Graham Clarke, Alfred Daniels and Mary Fedden.

Village ready to put on classical 10-day festival

VIRTUOSO performances are promised for the ten days of the Egerton Music Festival which starts on Friday, July 4.

Major events will be taking place in the village's Millennium Hall and Egerton House with the church also seeing some performers of classical music.

The fringe, which features folk, blues and jazz, takes place in pubs around the district.

Highlights will include a trio from the Royal Academy while Swansea Opera Box and Kent Chamber Choir will also be performing.

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That's Tenterainment

Free festival set to put town on musical map

■ BY NICK AMES

UP-AND-coming musical talent from the Tenterden area will be taking part in a free concert to be held in the town recreation ground next month.

And the organisers of Tenterertainment 2008 – who say it will be the town's very own version of "the Proms and Henley Regatta combined"

– hope the strong line-up will help promote the town and put it on the musical map.

Apart from the bands there will be a school for would-be circus performers, a beer tent, a cocktail tent and plenty of strawberries and cream.

Attractions

But the bands will be the major attraction on the day with a wide range of music including jazz, electric and acoustic based rock, blues, and indie.

The festival is one of many across Kent this summer – with the likes of the recent Sellindge Music Festival and the upcoming Zoo8 providing a feast of live music.

Headliners at the open air event will be renowned jazz quartet Hullabaloo – a group which has played with the likes of The Pogues, Jools Holland and even performed at the wedding of celebrity chef Jamie Oliver.

One of the organisers, Andy Usher, said: "Tenterertainment is

other acts line-up include Sikhona, Quarter Bag and The Jive Aces.

Tenterertainment takes place on Sunday July 27 and will run from noon until 8pm. For more information log-on to www.tenterden.org.uk.

the first of many events this year being organised by Tenterden Improve and the Tenterden Chamber of Commerce, to promote Tenterden to residents and visitors.

"We want it to be Tenterden's own version of the Proms and Henley Regatta combined."

"So put the date in your diary, dress up for the occasion and bring along deck chairs, rugs and blankets and enjoy the summer sun and the fabulous music."

Also on the line-up are local three-piece indie band D-FiNiTiVe, who all attended Homewood School and are sure to be among the star attractions with their Britpop style reminiscent of Keane and the Stereophonics.

They have recently been support act to the Sugababes and write much of their own material.

Singer-songwriter Issac Howlett, who grew up in Egerton, will also be there with his own band, which includes bass player Dave Foster who has worked with Paul Weller and Jon Brooker, a drummer who has played with Coldplay.

Other acts line-up include Sikhona, Quarter Bag and The Jive Aces.

Tenterertainment takes place on Sunday July 27 and will run from noon until 8pm. For more information log-on to www.tenterden.org.uk.



STRONG LINE-UP: Sikhona, one of the bands taking part in the Tenterertainment festival

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Zoo8 stars at Port Lympne

THE COUNTDOWN is on to the Zoo8 music extravaganza at Port Lympne next month – and a host of star performers were treated to a tour of the wild animal park last week.

And we were there to capture the visit – with clips for you to view on our free, broadband website www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

The star-studded three-day event will feature more than 100 acts over the weekend of July 4-6, with around 20,000 music fans expected to descend on the venue to catch the likes of Mark Ronson, Athlete and The Cribs.

And house music DJ, Brandon Block (pictured), was among those taking a peak

behind the scenes last week, ahead of the event. The star, who will perform on the Saturday night, fed some exotic monkeys in their enclosure and came up close and personal with a lion, while band The Holloways performed a couple of unplugged numbers for staff and visitors.

The Aspinall Foundation, the conservation charity which runs the zoo, is to share in the proceeds of the festival.

To find out more details about the festival, log-on to the official website www.zoothousand.com.

And to see clips of the recent visit, visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

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Picture: IOR RUPCO

JOIN NOW: You can sign up to take part in the Race for Life and raise money for Cancer Research UK

Don't hesitate to book your place in the Race for Life

■ BY ED HILL

IT'S not too late to join in the fun and raise money for a great cause, as the excitement mounts ahead of this month's Race for Life.

The women-only event takes place in Victoria Park on June 29, with hundreds already signed up to raise money for Cancer Research UK's flagship fundraiser.

And don't be put off by the prospect of having to run the 5km route – you can walk, jog or, if you're up to it, even sprint the circuit.

The race is open to anyone regardless of athletic ability, and organisers stress it is all about having fun and raising money.

Part of a string of events taking place nationwide, spaces are still available and local organisers hope they will be able to raise £112,000 to fund vital research into a disease which continues to devastate families.

Louise Cracknell, business development manager for Cancer Research UK said: "The Ashford event is something which really brings together the whole community for one

day of fun and fundraising for an extremely worthy cause.

"It was an amazing success last year and there was a brilliant atmosphere on the day.

"There is still time for people to get involved and they can take part whatever their level of ability.

"It's a fun event open to all and there to be enjoyed. It is a lovely setting in the town's best park and the surrounding streets.

"Any women who would like to be part of this day – raising money for charity as well as having a great day out – has until midnight on Tuesday, June 24 to put their name forward."

Nationwide in 2007, around 665,000 women took part, raising £40 million for the charity.

So far around 800 have signed-up for the Ashford event but there are still plenty of spaces left, with the capacity at 1,800.

Money raised from the races across the UK will be used to fund developments in tackling cancer by the charity, which also celebrates the lives and achievements of those who have contracted the condition.

• To sign-up, contact the event organisers via the www.raceforlife.org website.

Relive sights and sounds of festival

THE bumper summer of music continued recently as crowds flocked to the Sellindge Music Festival.

And you can catch up on all the highlights on our free, broadband website www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

Our crew was there to catch the likes of headliners Idlewild and a host of local talent – including the ever-popular Los Salvadores.

To relive the musical treats on offer, log-on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search for 'Sellindge'. And don't forget, if you're in a local band, or simply visit gigs, upload your clips to the site. It's easy and free.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Green light for new homes in Smarden

A SCHEME to build 12 homes in Smarden has been given the go ahead by council planners.

The homes are being built by the English Rural Housing Association which aims to try and provide affordable housing in rural areas. The group says it has 28 local households on its books wanting to take up cheaper homes in Smarden.

The development, off Chessenden Lane, consists of a mix of one-bedroom flats and two and three-bedroom houses.

There were objections to the housing from nearby businesses. However the parish council, which has worked on the project with the housing association, says it fully supports the development and says it will help young families to stay in the village and support the local schools and businesses.

The developers will now have to submit more detailed plans to the council showing the materials that will be used and the landscaping of ground around the site.

Turbine delivery held up in wait for stock

MOVEMENTS of large turbines by lorry to form the Romney Marsh wind farm have temporarily stopped as the next shipment has not yet arrived at Chatham Docks.

The convoy travelled down the M20 and came off at junction 10 before continuing along the A2070. They are expected in time in early July.

The lorries, in convoys of three, had been taking around three hours to cross the county, escorted by police outriders and a patrol car.

The 160-foot long trailers have caused some traffic delays to motorists caught behind them but police say disruption has been kept to a minimum.

Demelza sitting pretty after bench donation

KIND-HEARTED bosses at County Square are donating eight wooden benches to children's charity Demelza House.

The benches, previously located in the shopping complex, were presented to the Sittingbourne-based charity yesterday.

Frances Burt, commercial manager at County Square, said: "Now we have new benches to fit the décor of the revitalised County Square, we wanted to give our old benches, that are far too good to throw away, to a good home."

Keith Lee, area fundraising manager for Demelza House, said: "I would like to thank County Square for their kind generosity."

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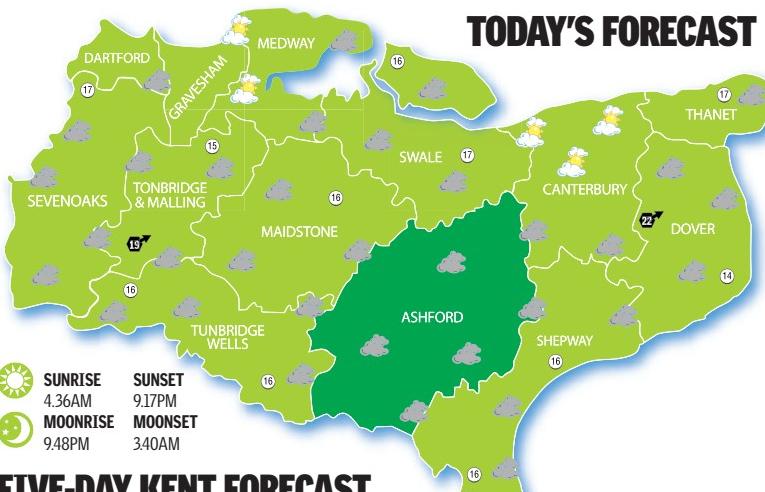
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TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:06pm	5.6m
	Sunday	2:40pm	5.7m
Dover	Saturday	12:31pm	6.2m
	Sunday	1:06pm	6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:23pm	7.1m
	Sunday	1:25pm	7.1m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:01pm	4.7m
	Sunday	1:36pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:56pm	5.4m
	Sunday	2:30pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:01pm	5.0m
	Sunday	2:34pm	5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	18°C	17°C	18°C	17°C	19°C
Canterbury	18°C	17°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Chatham	18°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Dartford	19°C	17°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Dover	16°C	15°C	16°C	16°C	16°C
Faversham	18°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Folkestone	16°C	15°C	16°C	16°C	16°C
Gillingham	18°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	18°C



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	15°C	Madrid	24°C
Athens	28°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	21°C	Paris	17°C
Beijing	28°C	Rome	24°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	26°C
Gibraltar	25°C	Vancouver	16°C
Hong Kong	30°C	Warsaw	22°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	11°C

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Council calls for highest quality of development

THE council has made clear its position on the environmental requirements for new developments around the borough.

The statement comes following concerns from environmental groups about the impact of the credit crunch on new housing.

Cllr John Kemp, portfolio holder for planning and development, said: "We have a series of policies in place which commit the council to securing high and challenging environmental standards from developers to ensure the growth of Ashford is truly sustainable.

"Irrespective of the current housing market, we will continue to press developers to meet the highest possible standards for developments in Ashford."

Thug punched pedestrian walking along cycle path

A MAN has been assaulted on the cycle path between Victoria Park and Beaver Road.

The attack took place last Tuesday (June 11) at around 6.30pm. The 52-year-old was walking along the path when he was hit by a man who was in a group of four people.

The man is said to have lashed out at the victim, hitting him on the side of the face.

The group of two men and two women then continued to walk towards the footbridge where they stopped to talk.

The man sustained a large lump on the side of his face and reddening above the right eye.

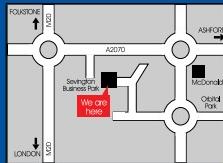
Police have asked for a cyclist who was in the area at the time to come forward.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

MARTIN PRICE



Q&A

It's been one of Ashford's major shopping areas for years and now Martin Price, manager of Park Mall talks to Ed Hill about business in the town, his background in the army and his love of playing hockey

Q How long have you been connected with Ashford?

A Not very long; since August last year. I did not know the town that well prior to that. Before moving to Park Mall I was doing a similar job in Bexleyheath. I had been here for sports events, but I live near Tunbridge Wells.

Q How do you find getting to Ashford?

A I am still trying to find the best time to get in. Around 8.30am seems to be the worst time for traffic so I try to avoid that.

Q Can you tell me a bit about Park Mall and its history.

A Park Mall operates independently although the owners UBS (United Bank of Switzerland) which has a number of similar properties in the country. It was built 20 years ago. The site and some of the areas around it including the car parks are owned by UBS.

Q How is trade at the moment?

A The general retail environment is tough with the credit crunch. I think Ashford has been doubly hit by the other changes such as the work being done to the ring road.

Q What do you think of the extension to County Square?

A I welcome it, I think that it is good for Ashford, anything that brings more people

into the town has to be good. Ashford still has a lot going for it. You will have the new high-speed rail link next year. I think that is going to encourage a lot of young people to the town. I think the future is bright for Ashford.

Q Do you like your work here?

A I love it, it's really diverse. No day is the same because of the number of responsibilities I have got. It's not just a case of looking after the centre. We have letting, health and safety, security and advertising and marketing. I am involved in all these different things.

Q What do you think of them changing the Charter House building into flats?

A I think it will be good. At the moment I think it is virtually empty.

Q What hobbies do you have?

A I have played hockey for about 30 years. I first got interested in it when I was in the Army.

Q What regiment were you in the Army?

A I was a cavalryman. I drove tanks. It's quite fitting having the tank there by the shopping centre for me. I was with the Queen's Own Hussars, which amalgamated with the Queen's Royal Irish. We were in Chieftain and Challenger tanks.

I was in for 15 years between 1978-93. I was involved in the first Gulf War and did some peacekeeping in Cyprus.

Q What do you feel about how soldiers are treated in the Army?

A My son is a serving soldier in the Army air corp. He has been in the thick of things. It is really difficult out there at the moment. The equipment was poor in my days in the army and it still is. My son has had to spend thousands of pounds of his own money on his kit.

Q Have you have reservations about your son joining?

A I encouraged it. I had 15 great years seeing the world. It was hard at times but the camaraderie of the Army just can't be beaten. In fact, when I first came out I did find it quite hard to adjust because you suddenly find yourself on your own after having been in a regiment with 700 other people. I think that will always be something that will be difficult for soldiers. It is just something that you have to deal with.

Q Did you have childhood heroes?

A I was very sporty so it was footballers and cricketers. I was a Wolves fan so it was people like Derek Dougan and John Richards. And the big players like Kevin Keegan and Bobby Moore.

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Sit back and enjoy an odd puppet production – could the Queen be a criminal mastermind. Search 'queen'.



Take a look at a new eco-friendly environment centre in Singleton, Ashford. Search 'singleton'.



Tom Betts talks to Steve McVickers, managing director of the Thanet Earth project. Search 'thanet'.



Reader Den Johnson takes us on a tour of the mudflats of the Medway. Search 'jack-o-lantern'.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...
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PCSOs are not reducing crime claims new report

■ BY NICK AMES

AN investigation into the impact of police community support officers has discovered they have little impact in areas where crime is high.

PCSOs, as they are known, are members of support staff employed, directed and managed by their county police force. They complement and support police officers, and are designed to offer greater public reassurance.

They do not have the same powers as police officers, however.

Ann Barnes, chairwoman of the Kent Police Authority said she welcomed the evaluation report into the effect of PCSOs but emphasised more work needs to be done in the field of reducing anti-social behaviour.

This will involve introducing teams of officers each responsible for a specific area which has encountered problems.

Investment

Mrs Barnes said: "Our first report showed that where we had deployed police community support officers the quality of life of residents had improved and crime had lowered.

"However, this time our second report has shown that in high crime areas the impact hasn't been felt and that's one reason why we have allocated new 'Task Teams' to be introduced in September to act as the enforcement arm of neighbourhood policing."

The report was discussed between top police officials and members of the authority at a meeting which looked at the role of the officers in the past 12 months.

Mrs Barnes, who gave the go ahead to fund the PCSOs, said: "We must critically look at our investments and understand what benefits they are bringing.

"It's our duty to the public to make sure we are getting a return and not wasting money.

"The authority didn't rush headlong into our investment, we researched, ran pilot pro-



MORE WORK: Police officers search people in the street but a new report says police community support officers do little to help reduce crime in areas recording high crime levels so Task Teams will be introduced to act as an enforcement arm

grammes and evaluated them before other forces and the Government.

"To have police officers patrolling for the same number of hours as police community support officers we would have to find an extra £3 million a year – impossible to do.

"This report is warts and all and is valuable

to the authority and force and highlights pointers where we need to make changes – which is why we carried out the research.

"We remain confident that police community support officers do a good job on the streets, they provide a uniformed presence and are invaluable to Kent Police and the service it delivers."

Energy firms need power to drop bills

ENERGY companies have ignored Government warnings to stop overcharging thousands of low income families in Kent on their fuel bills, the National Housing Federation has claimed.

British Gas, E.on, Npower and Scottish and Southern Energy are continuing to charge households with prepayment meters nearly £300 more for their gas and electricity than better-off customers who set up online accounts, according to figures published by the consumer watchdog, Energywatch.

They also pay up to £89 more than customers who pay their bills on a quarterly basis – despite paying for their fuel up front and rarely switching supplier.

The Government had been expected to use reserve legal powers to compel the energy companies to lower their tariffs for such customers – following a high profile campaign by the National Housing Federation, and a number of leading charities.

But the companies were given a "last chance" by the Chancellor Alistair Darling, warning them to slash their charges.

New figures released by Energywatch, revealed Npower charged prepayment meter customers £298 more than those on their cheapest tariff.

British Gas was a close second, charging £264 more, while E.on slapped a premium of £206 for customers using prepayment meters. And Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) charged its prepayment meter customers £171 more than those signed up to their cheapest tariffs.

The major providers said they have agreed on a £250 discount for those who are struggling to meet their bills whatever their method of payment.

A spokesman for Npower added: "Anyone can change their method of payment. It is quite often the case that prepay meters are used by landlords of tenanted properties so that there are no outstanding bills at the end of a period of tenure. But if anyone objects to this they can ask their landlords for a change."

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Were you born in 1948?

■ BY GARY WRIGHT

THE National Health Service celebrates its 60th birthday next month – an anniversary marking the greatest revolution in health-care in the world.

And to mark the occasion, we want to hear from anyone who shares their birthday with the much-admired service.

So, if you were born between July 5, 1948 – the day the NHS itself was created – and December 31 of the same year, we want to hear from you.

Tell us your story of a lifetime under the umbrella of a state-run health system, which was the envy of the world when it was unveiled.

We want you to share the highs and lows of the NHS experience, through its good times and tough times.

It might be the birth of your own children and grandchildren, or tales of life-saving operations and caring nurses who really did make a difference to your life or your loved ones.

The NHS was introduced by Clement Attlee's Labour government in the aftermath of World War Two as part of a cradle-to-grave welfare state to protect the whole population.

Before the war, healthcare in Britain had been a patchwork of local and municipal groups



A NEW AGE DAWNS: Anybody under 60 years of age in Britain has lived a lifetime with the security of the NHS

and charities. The thinking behind the NHS was that each person would receive the same level of healthcare, although private schemes were allowed to continue and exist to this day.

However, less than ten per cent of the public has private healthcare and much of that is a top-up to NHS services.

This is in stark contrast to nations such as the USA, where to receive healthcare requires insurance premiums and millions of Americans have no cover whatsoever.

Our NHS is frequently held up as an exam-

ple of state support around the world.

Aneru Bevan, appointed as health minister, had the job of introducing the reforms.

When they were in place, he stated: "We now have the moral leadership of the world."

So, if you celebrate your 60th birthday this year, let us know and share your story with thousands of our readers.

Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk, or write to: Gary Wright, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.



Mosquito to buzz off after debate

KENT Youth County Council (KYCC) members have been praised by local authority chiefs for their role in helping ban the use of so-called Mosquito devices.

The devices – which emit high-frequency sounds which can only be heard by those under 25 – are used to prevent youngsters gathering outside public buildings.

But Kent County Council has confirmed it is among one of the first authorities in the UK to ban them from its sites.

Since their introduction in January 2006, they have been installed across the country in more than 3,500 locations.

KYCC members were invited to debate the issue with KCC's cabinet earlier this year by Mike Hill, the councillor responsible for community services.

At a full county council meeting in May, it was agreed that KCC would ban the use of the device and it would lobby central government for a national ban. This is on the grounds that they infringe young people's rights and target all young people, regardless of how they are behaving.

It was also felt that their use "contradicts the authority's duty to represent young people and listen to and respect their views".

Cllr Hill said: "I am grateful to KYCC members for helping to debate this issue. These devices are abhorrent and give completely the wrong message to young people.

"The noise may result in youngsters moving away when there is no need for them to do so because they are causing no harm.

"I am grateful for the strong views of KYCC which informed the county council debate and the decision that was taken.

"This is testament to how seriously we take this issue and how important it is that our young people are listened to."

New powers in crackdown on fly-tippers and crooks

CRIMINALS profiting from polluting the environment by illegally dumping waste are being targeted in a crackdown.

Defra – the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – has launched a consultation in a bid to clampdown on a problem which plagues the Kent countryside.

Illegally dumped waste can be found anywhere, from roadsides and lay-bys to private land, and can range from large domestic items such as fridges and mattresses, to garden refuse and tyres.

The cost of removing the waste, some of which is hazardous, falls to individuals and

local authorities. Fly-tipping and other forms of waste crime are often organised by professional criminals making big profits.

The proposals will give local authorities and the Environment Agency new powers to stop, search and seize vehicles suspected of being involved in fly-tipping and other waste offences. Offenders who do not come forward risk their vehicles being crushed.

Environment Minister Joan Ruddock said: "Fly-tipping poses a serious threat to people and wildlife. It damages our environment and spoils our towns and countryside. There are rogue operators out there claiming to

dispose of waste responsibly but then dumping it in public areas. These are the people we have in our sights.

"It costs £100 million every year to investigate and clear up illegally dumped waste. This consultation will give everyone the opportunity to have their say on how we can tackle these crimes."

Among the measures proposed are doubling the maximum fine to £10,000 and making it an offence to provide false and misleading information on a waste carrier application form and for failure to notify of changes to registration details.

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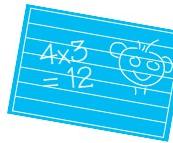
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BRIGHT FUTURES: Youngsters are looking forward to taking part in St Nicholas School's first ever careers day

PUPILS at St Nicholas School in New Romney will be seeing what the future has to offer them at the first careers day to be held at the school.

On Wednesday, July 2, children from years five and six will get the chance to find out about possible jobs from companies as diverse as Dungeness Power Station, Eurostar and Sainsbury's.

Irene Hills, learning mentor at St Nicholas School and organiser of the careers day, said the event would give the children an understanding of the career options available to them.

She said: "It is a chance for them to seriously consider their future."

"I know some people think they might be a bit young to be thinking about it, but if they have put some thought to what they want to do by the time they reach secondary school then that will stand them in good stead. I am really looking forward to the day, and the children are excited – they are very interested to hear what the companies have to say."

Mrs Hills said she was delighted in the

■ **BY ROB LIVINGSTONE**

amount of interest the event had received from businesses.

She said: "I have been really pleased with the interest from the companies who are coming to the event; they were more than happy to get involved."

The event would also demonstrate to children that there were more career paths open to them than they might first think, said Mrs Hills.

She said: "It will show them there is more to working in a hospital than being a doctor; there are porters, nurses, radiographers and physiotherapists, just as there are more jobs at a newspaper than just reporters – there are also photographers and editors."

"The important thing is for the children to realise that if they want to work at a newspaper they need to read and write, just as if they want to work in a bank they need to be able to understand maths."

There are still spaces available at the careers day, for more information call 01797 361906 or email ihills@st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk

BREAK TIME

Youngsters show healthy interest

PUPILS from schools across Ashford were taken to look at various jobs in the NHS at South Kent College's Open Road event.

Pupils from Christ Church School, Towers School and Homewood School joined students from SKC to visit the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, and Shepway Resource Centre in Folkestone.

They were also given the chance to take part in Heart Start, a course in emergency first aid, as well as a session with KCC's Care Ambassadors, at the college's Ashford campus.

Nikki Paine, learning manager at SKC, said: "We try to show children there are more jobs in hospitals than being doctors and nurses. They leave having a real idea of what a job in the National Health Service could involve."

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Teacher picks up gold in Europe

ASHFORD School's former pupil Kate Morwell-Neave – who now teaches fencing at the school – won gold for Great Britain at the European Team Veteran Fencing Championships in Spain.

The Invicta Fencing Club coach helped the British team win the ladies' team sabre title. After defeating top-seeded Italy 5-2 in the semi-finals, they then overcame Germany 5-4 in the final.

She teaches the art at Ashford School every week, and also demonstrates her skills to pupils at Duke of York's Royal Military School as well as being an instructor at Kingsnorth Fencing Club.

The coach was recently runner-up in the Kent and South East women's Epee championships, champion of South East England and she is a member of the Kent women's Epee team.

yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...

Twenty20 vision sorely lacking within the ECB

THE traditionalists despise cricket's quick-fire Twenty20 format.

They hate the razzmatazz that surrounds it. Hate the fact the crowd gets a bit football-like and doesn't fall silent when a ball is being bowled.

They hate the fact some of the strokes are as far removed from the textbook as Big Brother is from highbrow entertainment.

The musical blasts after each wicket or boundary are loathed and, if truth be told, its very popularity probably rubs them up the wrong way, too.

After all, someone may end up sitting in their favourite seat and, for once, parking is not the breeze they are used to. Witness last Wednesday's opening game as Kent looked to defend their Twenty20 Cup title.

This was no sedate affair. The St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury was packed and by the time a few beers had kicked in from those going straight to the ground from work, the atmosphere was close to frenzied.

But while the moaners probably steered

clear, or cursed the crowds and the queues, the make-up of the audience was truly something to put a smile on every genuine fan's face.

Young and old, male and female, there was a little bit of everything. The youngsters were plentiful. What's more, they got fully behind the team with a glorious enthusiasm which suggested they would be returning again, or, at the very least, would have fond memories of a trip to a cricket match.

The fact that Kent won a thrilling match with the penultimate ball left a genuine feel-good factor as the thousands left the ground.

Fans new to the sport had been converted – and that in itself is exciting.

Yet despite all the positives, there remains a sting in the tail of Twenty20's remarkable ability to breathe new life into a sport which once seemed unable to generate fresh interest outside of the international arena.

Because however much youngsters like cheering on their local team, it is the weight of numbers following the national side that really captures the imagination. However, given the pursuit of the pounds rather than the fans,

the sport's governing body in this country, the ECB, opted to hand England's live Test match coverage to Sky rather than the Beeb or Channel 4, after eight million tuned in to watch the glorious Ashes win in 2005.

And with the rights for 2010 onwards soon up for negotiation, you can be certain – barring government intervention – that they will be heading to a pay-TV operator, too.

And therein lies the real tragedy. Football was never going to suffer the same fate, as the levels of support are so huge. But for cricket, the chance to capitalise on both the interest in England and the Twenty20 Cup is lost.

Of course, the lure of millions is hard to resist for a sport rarely awash with cash. Yet cricket's long-term vitality really does hang in the balance if those switching on can't then tune in their TVs to watch it.

And that really is something to hate about the game and the way it is run.

• **Editor's note:** All blogs are supplied with the full name and address of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor,

Chris Britcher, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around

550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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This summer, get your kids using some of their creative energy to make fruit more fun with a little squirt of Anchor Real Dairy Cream!

To get you started, Anchor is giving one lucky winner an organic fruit box for a family of four delivered to their door each week for four months! You'll also win a four-month supply of Anchor Real Dairy Cream and a kid's Little Squirts chef hat so go on, get squirting! Five runners up will also receive Little Squirts chef's hats.

To enter, answer the question and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address, name, address, and daytime telephone number to Little Squirts Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR. The closing date is June 30, 2008.

Question: What is the name of Anchor Real Dairy Cream's campaign to make fruit more fun?

- a) Little Squirts b) Big Squirts
- c) Small Squeezes

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TALK TIME

PETER SUTHERLAND

The founder of the information outlet Tickyboob, in Wye, talks about his business and what attracted him to the village

How long have you lived in Wye?

We have been living in the area since 1980. Before that we were a general store. We re-launched ourselves. We decided in the late 1970s to downscale. Before that my wife and I had both been involved in the advertising industry. We downscaled before the expression had been invented. We left London and decided to run a small business. We act as an information centre in conjunction with Ashford Tourist Board. We are like a little sub office; a bit of a community centre. We sell tickets for things and advise people about bed and breakfasts, local walks and sell work from local artists.

Why Wye?

It felt right. We are blessed with beautiful countryside around here. We attract a steady stream of visitors. We have great walks like the North Downs Way. Wye has tremendous community spirit. We fought Imperial College over their development plans for the site. We don't know what's going to happen now. We will have to see what the future holds. At the moment it seems that Imperial don't want to have any kind of education going on there. We just hope another education establishment will step in. We love walking and we have an allotment which we have had for two years. In fact, there are a few places left in Wye for people to take an allotment which is rare. It has become the trend to grow your own, particularly with the price of food.

What do you think of advertising now?

It has changed enormously. When I was in advertising it was very demanding but both my wife and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I was involved in some of the first colour ad campaign in the newspapers.



YOUR LETTERS

High green ideals likely to fade away

I read with interest your front page story last week (Black future for green properties?, Yourashford, June 11).

I have always been of the impression many developers play the 'green' card in order to get the permission they need to build whatever it is they are looking to make a small fortune on.

While I'm not suggesting those in the article are of that way of thinking, you cannot help but wonder how many schemes will be downgraded from their high ideals because it is cheaper and when the excuse of the credit crunch can be wheeled out time and time again.

William Harris
Via email

Let's hope houses not sunk in crunch

What a great shame it would be if Ashford's new environmentally-friendly homes were to be torpedoed by mounting costs.

This town could have become a beacon for a new generation of



LETTERS: Please send your letters in to us at Yourashford, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR



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homes and really pride itself on spearheading a real push in the right direction.

I will keep my fingers crossed the credit crunch does not force such a positive step forward to

become a leap backwards.

Lynda Howard
Charing

Too many houses whatever colour

I don't care if housing is green, red or yellow – surely Ashford now has enough homes that it doesn't actually need yet more?

Mrs K Langer
Via email

Schools do a great job in our area

Why do we have to listen to Labour's rubbish? (Schools to close if don't improve, Yourashford, June 11).

My son attends Towers School and we have nothing but praise for Malcolm Ramsay and all the staff who work there and their inspirational teaching.

This is an up-and-coming, forward-thinking school and in no way a failing one, I can assure you.

Karen Brown
Via comments on
www.yourashford.co.uk

Grammar system distorts results

What a cheek to accuse schools of failing because they do not hit GCSE levels expected by the government.

Given the brighter pupils go to the Knatchbull or Highworth, how on earth is it fair to compare our town with those elsewhere in England which don't have grammars?

The likes of Towers and Christ Church have a wide range of children with a wide range of abilities, and the teachers do the best job they can, with

developing confidence and individual talents

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sometimes a difficult intake.

I think the government should be praising them and not holding them to the threat of closure.

Mrs J Brown
Kennington

Sad summer if these are blockbusters

Is it just me, or does the line-up of blockbusters heading to the cinema this summer look pretty uninspired?

There's the latest outings of the Hulk and Batman, while Indiana Jones looks like an OAP and can hardly still lay claim to action man status, surely?

H Nixon
Willesborough

Community payback must be completed

If offenders are given community orders – or community payback as they are now known – surely they are obliged to complete them? (How 'payback' helps to reform offenders, Yourashford, June 4).

Yet your article said that out of 282 people served such orders only 124 have been successfully completed.

Does this mean there are still

some being served, or that offenders just stopped paying the punishment they had been handed down by the courts?

Peter Long
Via email

Mini marathon will aid Asthma UK

I am writing to tell you about Asthma UK's Kick Asthma mini-marathon challenge for children.

Asthma need not hold children back and I hope young achievers never think that having asthma stops them fulfilling their dreams.

Although asthma can be very serious – in the South East approximately 3,350 children a year are admitted to hospital because of their asthma – with the right medication and support most children with asthma should be able to take part and enjoy sport.

Each child in is sponsored to complete a short section, which combined with others, completes the marathon. They can also complete it in any way they like so we've seen children on piggyback, three-legged and even with an egg and spoon.

I would urge any reader who thinks their child would enjoy taking part, to ask their teacher or youth club leader to sign up by calling 08456 03 81 43 or e-mailing

info@asthma.org.uk.

Theresa Hall
Assistant director of group giving
Asthma UK

Help foster children stay until they are 21

As MPs debated the Children and Young Persons Bill in Parliament on Monday, foster carers from across England will be asking them to make a commitment to young people by allowing them to stay with in foster families until they are 21.

Currently, young people can stay until their 18th birthdays. This means that some of society's most vulnerable young people are being kicked out at 17, despite the fact the average age for leaving home is 24.

Young people who have been in care are over-represented in prisons and more likely to be unemployed, mental health service users, single parents or homeless than those who grew up within their own families. Research shows the longer a young person can stay with their foster family, the better the outcomes.

It is vital every local MP across the country acts now to ensure the Government makes this investment in vulnerable young people.

Robert Tapsfield
Chief executive
The Fostering Network

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WHAT WE DO: The Coral recorded their latest album in Noel Gallagher's studio and are looking forward to headlining at Lounge on the Farm

The Coral get ready to rock

But band bans wellies for festival spot

HEADLINERS The Coral are getting ready to Lounge on the Farm as Kent's festival season continues.

The Mercury Prize-nominated band will top an impressive bill that includes an array of big names and exciting new talent.

The line-up so far includes Lightspeed Champion, Black Kids, Mystery Jets, The Draytones, Underground Heroes, and countless others.

For the Coral, Lounge on the Farm will be another chance to have fun in the sun (hopefully) though there is a ban on a certain item of festival footwear, as organ player Nick Power revealed.

"I take my boots with me, but there's a wellly ban," he said. "I think they just look silly."

The band started out as members of the Liverpool music scene and released their self-titled debut album in 2002. They were still in their late teens and early 20s at the time and have released four more albums since then. Power believes that any

Lounge on the Farm

Friday to Sunday, July 11-13
Merton Farm, Canterbury

developments in their sound have occurred naturally, rather than through any conscious decision.

"It's always changing," he said. "If you're good, it will always change. If you're original, it doesn't matter what you're doing – if you strive to be original in life, even away from music, it will come out."

Their many fans include hard-to-please Noel Gallagher, who even lent them the use of his studio and vintage equipment to record their latest album Roots & Echoes.

"He doesn't throw lots of compliments at you," Power said. "We've toured with him and he said 'use our studio for nothing.' He came down a few times. Noel's done lots of stuff to help us because he likes us."

Having formed as teenagers in Merseyside, The Coral seemed to be pretty confident of their ability to produce good tunes.

When their debut album was nominated for the prestigious Mercury

Prize, Power was less than impressed with the industry endorsement.

"I had seen the judges and I don't need to be given an A* from a journalist in a suit," he said. "I don't need them to say that it's alright. I won't judge someone who is good because they probably know already. I don't really get it."

Once the festival season is over The Coral will be starting work on a new album, though this will be achieved in their own style.

"It sort of falls into place," Power said. "We have a bit of time off and we all start writing in our own time. It's not like everyone will be in the gym weightlifting. We pick up our guitars and put the telly on. We all contribute, it's what we do."

Lounge on the Farm weekend tickets cost £85 for adults and £40 for children, while day tickets cost £35 for adults and £20 for children. Tickets can be booked online at www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk and are also available from various outlets across Kent. Visit the website for full details.

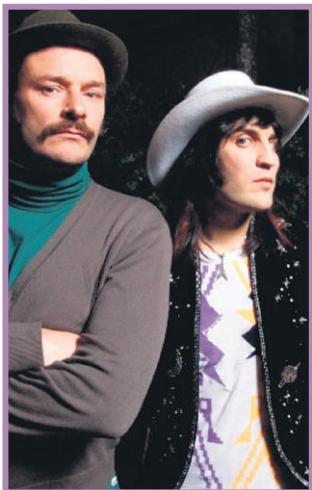


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MIGHTY BOOSH FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, July 5 and 6
The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

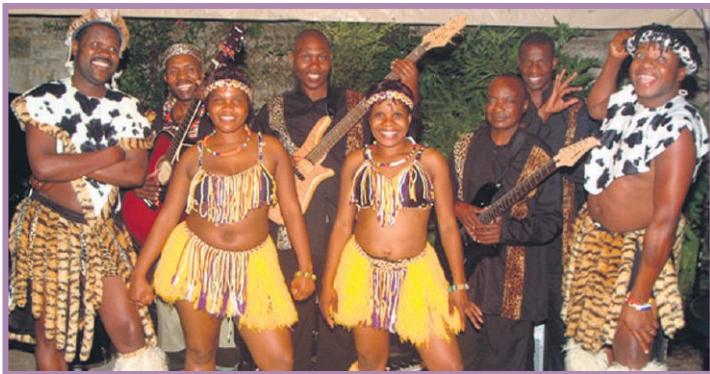


TWO of the biggest talents in their respective fields will be visiting the Hop Farm next month.

On the Saturday cult comedy heroes The Mighty Boosh will be hosting a day of live music and comedy. Julian Barratt and Noel Fielding, stars of the hit BBC comedy about two unlikely friends who have a variety of surreal adventures, will welcome The Charlatans, Gary Numan, The Kills and more. Ross Noble and Frankie Boyle will be among the host of comics at the Hop Farm's version of the Velvet Onion club. Gates open at midday and children aged 12 and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

Music legend Neil Young will headline The Hop Farm Festival on the Sunday, topping an impressive bill that features acts such as Primal Scream, Supergrass, My Morning Jacket, Rufus Wainwright and Guillemots. Gates open at 11am.

Tickets for The Mighty Boosh Festival cost £50 plus booking fee, while tickets for The Hop Farm Festival cost £49.50 plus booking fee. Book online at www.seetickets.com or call 0871 220 0260.



RED HOT AFRICAN HI-LIFE AND TOWNSHIP JIVE

Friday, June 20, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

EXPERIENCE poetry in motion when Albert Nyathi and Imbongi pay a visit to Canterbury this week.

Described as 'explosive, dynamic and visually stunning', Red Hot African Hi-Life and Township Jive features the best of African music and poetry. The vibrant and multi-talented eight-piece blends music, dance, songs and words to create an exciting show that has wowed audiences all over the country.

The band is fronted by Albert Nyathi, winner of the Zimbabwe National Poetry Award and the country's premier performance-dub-poet.

Known as the voice of the people, Nyathi is controversially outspoken about the people, politics and lifestyles of Zimbabwe.

The production arrives direct from Zimbabwe with the talents of Maqhinga Radebe of Ladysmith Black

Mambazo, who has been dubbed South Africa's Prince of Maskanda Guitar.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12/£10.

Members of Imbongi will lead a fun African dance and song workshop at 6pm. Children are welcome and participants should wear loose clothing if possible.

Tickets cost £4. To book call the box office on 01227 769075 or book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

CHAS AND DAVE



Thursday, June 26
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

GET ready to rabbit when legendary cockney duo Chas and Dave bring their unique sound to Shepway.

Their hit song about a pretty girlfriend who talks too much will be just one of the many great songs they will perform from their greatest hits album. Ain't No Pleasing You, Sideboard Song and Gertcha are also likely to be on the set list.

Both were experienced musicians in their own rights before they joined forces, having played with various bands on the London music scene during the 60s and early 70s.

Their experiences working together in Black Claw led to them teaming up and launching their own brand of honest, funny rock 'n' roll on the music world.

Their debut album, the



self-produced One Fing 'n' Anuvver, was critically acclaimed and earned support from the likes of John Peel. They have since gone on to write consistently entertaining songs about the realities of day to day life,

continuing to influence modern bands such as The Libertines.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £17/£14. Call the box office on 0870 4000 890 or book online at www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

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Relive the highlights from the Sellindge Music Festival

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Comics rule the world

BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE UNITED Nations should keep a close watch on the cult comics behind The Mighty Boosh.

Having garnered a legion of devoted fans from their surreal sit-com and nationwide stage tour, experimental and eccentric pair Noel Fielding and Julian Barrett have organised a one-day comedy/music festival.

What next? If things go well world domination is surely but a few steps away.

Impending invasion aside, however, the Mighty Boosh Festival takes place at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood next month boasting the very best in stand-up and live music.

Indie superstars The Charlatans are among the biggest draws lined up to appear on the Monkey Hell main stage, joined by the likes of '80s electro legend Gary Numan, The Kills and the balding brilliance of Har Mar Superstar.

Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker and risqué US singer Peaches will also chip in with DJ sets.

Providing the laughs in The Velvet Onion tent will be acclaimed comics such as Geordie perm funnyman Ross Noble, Frankie Boyle and the criminally underrated Matthew Holness, who gave the world the unadulterated joy that is Garth Marenghi's Darkplace.

The undercard also includes emerging up-and-comers including Mark Watson, Josie Long, Wil Hodgson and Tom Baden.

The Mighty Boosh boys will be on hand at the end of the day to combine the comedy and music elements of the festival with a top-of-the-bill performance on the main stage.

Eccentric goth Fielding said: "We've never played a music festival before and a comic has never headlined at a festival before so we are seizing the opportunity and doing both."

The 30,000 capacity one-dayer on Saturday, July 5, costs £50 per person, with children under 12 going free when accompanied by an adult. Food and bottled water are allowed on site but no glass bottles and cans.

Gates open at noon. For more information visit www.booshfestival.com.



SURREAL: The Mighty Boosh will play their first festival when they go top of the bill at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

MIGHTY BOOSH FESTIVAL LINE-UP

MUSIC

The Mighty Boosh
The Charlatans
Jarvis Cocker (DJ set)

GARY NUMAN

White Denim
Polar Bear
Robots in Disguise

COMEDY

Ross Noble
Frankie Boyle
Matthew Holness

ARJ BARKER

Milton Jones
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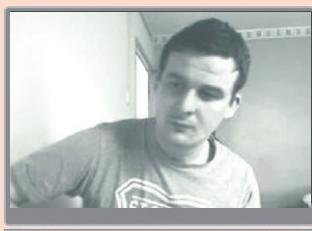
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Open Golf at Royal Birkdale

EXCLUSIVE KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

The Open returns to Royal Birkdale ten years on from Mark O'Meara's victory and the emergence of a young amateur, now the top golfer in Europe, Justin Rose.

Golf's best known names including last year's victor Padraig Harrington* will descend on Royal Birkdale, one of Britain's finest golf clubs. Having previously hosted two Ryder Cups, the Walker and Curtis Cups, the Women's British Open and, on eight occasions, the Open, Royal Birkdale is the perfect setting for the Open this summer.

The Open is golf's oldest tournament and was first held at Prestwick Golf Club in 1860 when just eight players played three rounds over a 12 hole course. Today the Championship is a top feature in the golfing calendar, attracting all the top world players competing for millions of pounds of prize money.

The Price includes:

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*Omega cannot be held responsible for the non-show of golfers. Prices based on two people sharing a twin/double room; single supplement applies.
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Fashionable store has grand designs

Vida

IT may still be a relative newcomer, but designer store Vida has quickly become one of the most popular places to shop for those wanting to be en vogue.

Based at the Mersham-Le-Hatch Business Village in Ashford, Vida stocks a range of accessories and opened its doors at the fast-growing site in November. And with well-informed staff on hand to give valuable advice, it is growing in reputation.

Owner Margaret Bracewell explains: "I sell designer handbags, shoes, boots, leather gloves, leather belts, leather jewellery boxes, purses and scarves. All the goods are exclusive and individually sourced."

"As an independent retailer I can give individual and informed advice to each customer. All the stock is exclusive and is displayed to highlight each individual piece in its own space."



"The designer handbags sell very well, particularly the Italian company, Ripani and London firm Billy Bag."

"Customer service is vital to running a business, alongside stocking the quality of goods to suit the requirements of customers. Staff must be knowledgeable about the products. In the case of Vida, the location

and design of the shop in a beautiful historic area can only add to the success."

"The Mersham-Le-Hatch Business Village is in such a lovely setting. It's a gem of a location with some superb businesses as neighbours, such as the Secret Garden restaurant and Macknade Fine Foods to name just two."

All's Well that ends with no surgery

Wells Clinic

THE Wells Clinic in New Street, Ashford has been running for 17 years, helping people to achieve their full potential in terms of their looks.

"We are about making people feel good about themselves – making people happier," said Helen Huggins.

She explains that there is far more to looking and feeling good than simply how you look in one area: "Our business is about our clients feeling confident and giving themselves more assurance."

With that comes a range of exciting new ideas and procedures that completely bypass any need for surgery – one of the biggest concerns for many people.

ple.

The Wells Clinic ensures that it can offer the very latest advances in non-invasive cosmetic surgery.

Helen added: "Wrinkle fillers and Botox injections can take years off your face. You can become more confident, look younger and achieve a more positive outlook."

A lot of the business is word of mouth, and celebrity clients have also used the expertise of staff at Wells – but the centre is discreet and won't be naming names.

A simple consultation can take you through all the procedures available and skilled staff can advise on the best procedures based on individual needs. Get in touch to find how it can help you.



TOP TIPS

Curves, Drum Lane

Shaving the hair makes it grow back thicker is another beauty myth. Shaved hair seems to grow back thicker only because when we shave, the razor cuts the hair off only on the skin's surface. They were not plucked off directly from the follicle.

Think TrimNSlim

Take good care of your body. Some people take better care of their pets than themselves. Their animals can run like the wind but they can barely make it up the stairs. Some people don't do well simply because they don't feel well.

Vida

The hot look in footwear this spring/summer is the gladiator sandal, either with an ankle strap or without. This style is very flattering for women of all ages and, contrary to popular belief, looks good on all shapes and sizes.

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WOOLWORTHS is slashing prices on its range of top DVDs.

Fans of comedies can get the All Five Slices American Pie box-set for just £18, reduced from £34.99, or the Lee Evans collection for £28, down from £39.99.

Action-lovers can find the Bourne Identity and Bourne Supremacy for £5 reduced from £9.99 and the Bourne Ultimatum is £9 from £19.99.

Other top films can be found in store so why not take a look for yourself in the branches in Ashford High Street or Tenterden High Street?

Bag a delicious drink and be eco-friendly

MILK in a bag has come to supermarket giant Sainsbury's after the innovative new packaging hit the shelves – complete with top marks for animal welfare.

Precious Milk comes in its own easy to use pouch and comes from the Contented Cow Company, reflecting the highest standards in animal welfare.

The packaging is recyclable and eco-friendly, and is set to dramatically reduce the four billion plastic bottles currently used by the UK's dairy industry every year. Try it for yourself by visiting the Bybrook store.

Jeweller's discount is definitely one to watch

H SAMUEL in County Square has great deals on big name watches.

Styles for men and women are available from around £30, with savings of more than £20 on certain brands.

Ladies Morgan watches can be picked up for £39.99, from £59.99, and men's Tommy Hilfiger watches are available for £42.49, knocked down from £84.99.

Puma, G-Shock, Accurist and Casio brands can also be found. For more details see www.hsamuel.co.uk.

Fill your boots with an intimately cheap scent

SHOPPERS can save up to 50 per cent off selected men and women's fragrances at Boots.

Beckham Intimately Night for Her (75ml) can be picked up for £21.99 down from £32.50 with the male equivalent for the same price. Burberry Brit for women (50ml) is available for £19.50 down from £39 and Burberry Brit Red (30ml) for £13.50 reduced from £27.

See www.boots.com or pop into your Ashford High Street store.

Feel gorgeous in a new summer outfit or two

EVANS has a stylish range of outfits to make sure you look fabulous all summer.

Beach products, including flip-flops, kaftans, t-shirts and swimwear can be picked up for reasonable prices starting from around £12.

The summer night out range will bring out your glamorous side and for that extra special occasion a silk poppy prom dress is available for £95.

Sizes range from 14-32 and can be viewed in the shop in Ashford High Street or at www.evans.co.uk.



Enjoy a **delicious meal** in our **17th century barn**, converted now to the Junction Restaurant, followed by a **relaxing drink** in our Bybrook Tavern Bar

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yourashfordtimeout

YOUR TV REVIEW



INTELLIGENT: Lauren Laverne and Mark Kermode present this watchable, and cultured, show

■ BY TOM BETTS

IT may not be as high-brow as it likes to think, and every now and then some sections can border on dull, but the Culture Show's return is still a welcome one.

The show looks at everything from movies, music, comedy and art, in a reassuringly non-patronising way, so you don't feel like an uneducated fool.

Host Lauren Laverne is pretty inoffensive and, on film duty, Mark Kermode is still the most watchable critic we have on these shores.

While some will scoff at a dumbing down of high art, in a world of Big Brother and Vernon Kaye's Family Fortunes, a few bite-size chunks of culture make a refreshing change.

And you never know you may just learn a little something into the bargain.

Talking of modern day culture I must say it's been ruddy brilliant watching the Portsmouth Hotspurs tough it out against Tottenham Villa

THE CULTURE SHOW

BBC2, 10pm, Tuesday

EURO 2008

BBC and ITV, check listings for times and dates

over the last few months. I talk about the football season, of course.

The domestic season is all over, but for those who hate the all-consuming beast it has become, or who may simply never have watched a game before, this could be a good place to start.

With England's failure to qualify, the national mania that comes around every two years will not cloud the issue and if you really want to have a look at the game itself, aside from the circus and politics that surrounds it on a league level then, take a look.

For me, this is much closer to what football should really be like.

Less about who said what about which player, and what overpaid moron is signing for which over-paying club and more about what is happening on the pitch.

The business end of the tournament is in full swing so give it a try, even if it's just this once.

■ BY TOM BETTS

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

THE power of the people isn't just a catch phrase for you; it's a reality. If you long to make changes join forces with others. A loved one may think your tactics rude, but don't pay attention to such criticism. Sometimes you have to cause a commotion to make progress.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

OUTSIDERS see you as conventional. If they knew what you were really thinking they'd be amazed. Your creative juices are flowing freely. Channel them in a positive direction. Money could be a bit tight thanks to an unexpected bill. Friends could help you find extra work.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

AFTER months of struggle, you're able to break through a creative block. If you've been mentally moribund, you could at last begin to see the wood for the trees. Life is about to assume a more playful aspect. Take care not to neglect loved ones.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU'RE tired of relying on others for the things you need, you need to make plans for your future security. Putting a percentage of your income into savings will be painful at first, but you'll soon become used to it. Within a month, you won't even feel the pinch.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU'RE sick and tired of people telling you what you can and can't do. You need as much freedom as you can get. A job that lets you travel could prove fulfilling. Stuffy characters may criticise you for not settling down, but pay no attention. 'To each their own' should be your motto.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU'RE tired of thinking in terms of the material world. Studying the larger questions in life could prompt you to make some changes. Spending more time in nature could be one solution. Even spending a solitary half hour each morning could restore your inner equilibrium.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7



WESTGATE & BIRCHINGTON ROTARY CLUB

in association with the Rotary Clubs of Thanet and Thanet District Council

PRESENTS

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♦ VENDORS ♦ FIREWORKS ♦

Your hosts:

Dermot O'Leary
Kaddy Lee-Preston



Music starts at 5.30pm - Come to the party - why not bring a picnic? ***

TICKETS* £25.00 EACH

available from:
The Winter Gardens box office (01843) 292795 / 296111
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk
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Dodgers, Station Road, Birchington CT7 9RA
J.C.Rook & Sons, 1 High Street, Broadstairs CT10 1LP
Holy Lane Post Office, 372 Northdown Road Cliftonville CT9 3PQ
Sandwich Electrical Services, 10 Delf Street, Sandwich CT13 9BZ

Please note: * Tickets will NOT be on sale on the day of the event.

THE GLITTER BAND


T-REX


PLUS APPEARANCES BY SURPRISE GUESTS

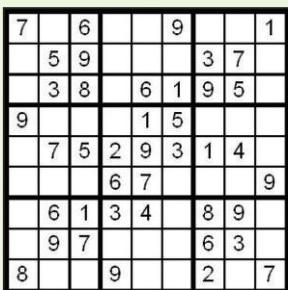
CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No41

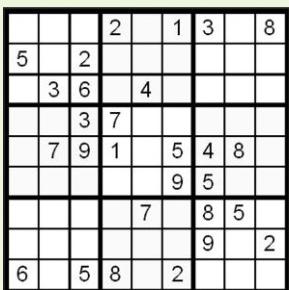
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WATERSTONE'S

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

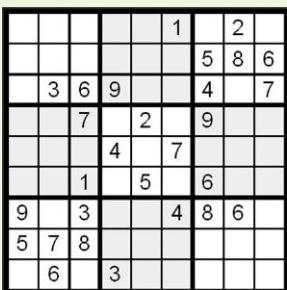
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

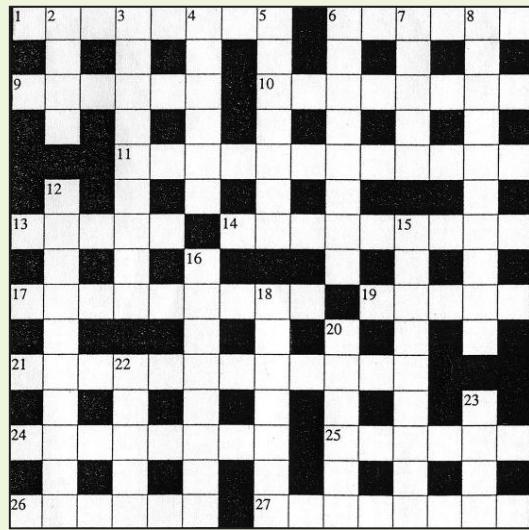
ACROSS

- 1 One not in favour of gold article (8)
- 6 Greet sailor with takeover bid! (6)
- 9 Fastener that is fast! (6)
- 10 Approval of penalty (8)
- 11 Lesser stress upsetting fidgety feeling (12)
- 13 Right demand (5)
- 14 Stomach pain that's a persistent complaint (9)
- 17 Wobbly swimmer? (9)
- 19 An opening that's a gem (5)
- 21 Fourth last antepenultimate contest (12)
- 24 Dagger used by leader inside vandalising toilets (8)
- 25 Be quiet - put on a cover presently! (4,2)
- 26 New diet Edward revised (6)
- 27 Dish found by bird at anchor first (8)

DOWN

- 2 Lure one striker round (4)
- 3 Price Liam negotiated based on practical experience (9)
- 4 Force Ruth struggling on the road (6)
- 5 Firmness of purpose to reach a decision (7)
- 6 By fair means on the sly misleadingly (8)
- 7 Black on piece of stamped metal (5)
- 8 Pay meticulous attention to detail - not half (5,3,2)
- 12 Weakened the force of old number performing a duet! (10)
- 15 Heavenly food? (5-4)
- 16 Pretended to be insincere (8)
- 18 East Anglian sheep? (7)
- 20 Bit (6)
- 22 In the fire literally struck another match! (5)
- 23 Reflect on one in a group of nine (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Castle gateway (8)
- 6 East African country (6)
- 9 Smoked ham (6)
- 10 Giving protection (8)
- 11 Besides (4,3,5)
- 13 Grab (5)
- 14 At the farm (anag.) (9)
- 17 Hearth (9)
- 19 Messenger (5)
- 21 Puppet-show (5,3,4)
- 24 Rigorous examination (8)
- 25 Sportsperson (6)
- 26 Immediate (6)
- 27 Bandage (8)

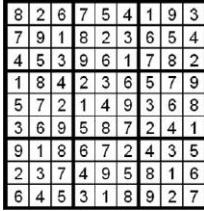
DOWN

- 2 Abroad (4)
- 3 Mystify (9)
- 4 Curving outwards (6)
- 5 Very much (3,4)
- 6 Made slovenly (8)
- 7 Freely (2-3)
- 8 Source (10)
- 12 Musical note (10)
- 15 Rich person (9)
- 16 Nice (8)
- 18 Hugged (7)
- 20 Mauve (6)
- 22 Bend (5)
- 23 Piercing (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

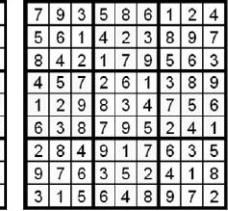
SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No40

EASY



MEDIUM

HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No40

ACROSS: 1 Qualify 5 Adipose 9 Jest 10 Nambypamby 12 Outclass 13 Oxtail 14 Marriageable 17 Over ones head 21 Acetic 23 Picked up 24 Wilhelmina 25 Size 26 Keebler 27 Seeder.

DOWN: 2 Useful 3 Latecomer 4 Funfair 6 Daylong 7 Plait 8 Subtitle 11 Mississippi 15 Addressed 16 Eviction 18 Nacelle 19 Enclave 20 Puzzle 22

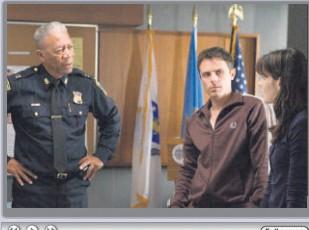
QUICK SOLUTION No41

1 Quirke 23 Keen
2 Please 24 Quiddled 25 Purple 22
3 Pleaseation 27 Seating 28 Purpleybaggs
4 Comeon 5 Neel 6 Hail 7 Ad 8
5 Dandy 24 Outshame 25 Player 26 Legend
6 Pleaseing DOWN 2 Aray 3 Bemoultie
7 Tressing 27 Grappling 28 Envoy 21 Plush
8 Aftermath 22 Draper 23 Glitter 24 Glitter
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ON GENERAL RELEASE

GONE BABY GONE (15)



A four-year-old girl is missing in a tough Boston neighborhood, and private investigators Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro (Casey Affleck and Michelle Monaghan) are asked by family to help. But there are drug thugs, money, and liars around

THE HAPPENING (15)



Humanity is under threat in this chilling story which focuses on a science teacher (Mark Wahlberg), his estranged wife (Zooey Deschanel), best friend (John Leguizamo) and his daughter as they fight to stay alive while a powerful neurotoxin creates global chaos. People all along the eastern seaboard of the United States are just dropping down dead

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (12A)



Bruce Banner struggles to avoid the pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross (William Hurt), and the machinery that seeks to capture him and exploit his power, all the while trying to find a cure to rid himself of his rage-filled alter ego. Then along comes a monstrous new adversary - The Abomination

Audrey returns to her roots

■ BY KATE WHITING

IT is exactly two years since Audrey Tautou teamed up with Tom Hanks in Hollywood blockbuster *The Da Vinci Code*. But rather than use the experience to launch an assault on the American film industry, the diminutive French starlet chose simply to slip quietly back out of the limelight.

"I don't want to do an anonymous Hollywood movie which is why I'm not interested in those types of experiences," she explains.

"I like my work and I like to work, because I like to meet people, so it really depends on the people I'm going to work with."

"It's not a question of language, or country or where the production is set, it's only a question of people and talent."

Audrey first came to the world's attention in 2001 French language film *Amelie*, the tale of a shy but eccentric Parisian girl, who finds pleasure in observing other people's lives and subtly interfering with them.

Then came her first English role the following year as a struggling Turkish woman in *Dirty Pretty Things*, Stephen Frears' drama about immigrants in London.

Now she is back speaking in her native tongue in the romantic comedy *Priceless*, alongside a young Nicholas Cage lookalike, Gad Elmaleh.

Audrey plays Irene, a scheming gold digger who mistakes shy waiter Jean (Gad) for a millionaire. When she finds out he doesn't actually have a penny to his name, she runs off to the Cote d'Azur.

Jean follows and sets himself up as a male gigolo to earn some money – and Irene's respect. Before long the pair inevitably fall in love.

"I loved this movie, because yes it's a roman-

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tic comedy, but in other ways it's cruel and heartless," Audrey says.

"It's not like a sweet sugary comedy where it's all about romance and love. It's quite dark, like a satire."

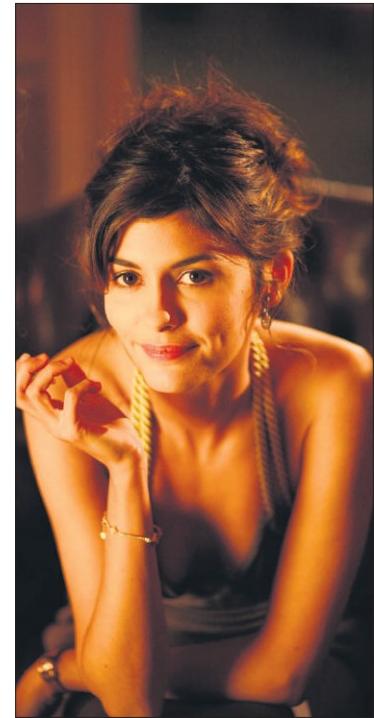
After playing very likeable characters in *Amelie* and *The Da Vinci Code*, Irene is something of a departure for the 31-year-old actress.

"It was a good opportunity for me to play a strong character," she admits.

"She's tough but she's also special because her motivation is from something in her youth. I really think she has an admiration – almost a compulsion – for this luxury universe."

"She thinks to be happy she needs to be in the universe of money. It's like a security for her. But in a way she avoids true feelings."

For Audrey, the daughter of a dentist and a teacher from the Auvergne, money has never been important – and now she has earned her fair share through the success of her films, she finds it hard to come to terms with being well-off.



GOLD DIGGER: Audrey Tautou stars in new release *Priceless* and is working on a film of *Coco Chanel*

"For me, it's still a novelty. I still feel like a foreign character with money."

Despite all the critical acclaim she has received, with a Bafta nomination to boot, Audrey admits she still has doubts about her acting ability.

"I am not self-confident at all," she reveals. "It's a paradox in a way. I would say I know what I don't want to do, but I don't know what I can do."

"I need to be reassured. Most of the time, when I'm hired for a part, I always think there's been some kind of mistake."

Worries aside, Audrey's career success looks set to continue, albeit on this side of the Atlantic and she is working on a biopic of fashion icon *Coco Chanel*.

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Caramel (Sukkar Banat) PG
Fri – 6.20pm, Sat – 8.50pm, Sun – 2.50pm &
6.20pm, Mon – Thurs – 6.50pm

Nadine Labaki's first feature film is a delightful comedy of manners and a personal story of her Lebanon which leaves the country's political turmoil in the background in favour of an arena where love, laughter and tears fight for attention.

Private Property (Nue Propriété) 15
Fri – 8.50pm, Sat – 6.20pm, Sun – 8.50pm
Joachim Lafosse's film has a considerable credibility and piercing insights into the complex dynamics of family life, with another brave and remarkably subtle performance from Isabelle Huppert at its core.

Booking Office: **01227 769075**

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Another milestone in cross Channel travel!

With the arrival of the SeaFrance Molière in early July, SeaFrance Dover - Calais Ferries completes its fleet of new generation superferries operating the cross Channel route between Dover and Calais.

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The SeaFrance Molière joins a distinguished fleet that includes the award winning SeaFrance Rodin and the SeaFrance Berlioz and has all the advantages you'd expect of a modern ship. And with a capacity to effortlessly sail up to 1,200 passengers in comfort across the Channel, plus easy loading and disembarkation for cars, why would you want to cross the Channel any other way?

The high standard onboard facilities and the distinctive continental atmosphere that passengers have come to expect when crossing the Channel with SeaFrance are strong features of the SeaFrance Molière. Enjoy waiter service cuisine prepared onboard by our French chefs in La Brasserie

restaurant. Choose from a superb family menu in Le Relais, our self-service restaurant, or simply relax over a refreshingly cool drink or coffee in our café bars.

Shopping with SeaFrance is an experience not to be missed. The SeaFrance onboard shop, La Boutique has amazing offers with fantastic savings across a huge range of wines, beers, spirits, perfumes, confectionery, and gifts.

Crossing the Channel with SeaFrance is a great way to start your short break or family holiday in France.

Renowned as a top European holiday destination, France has fantastic variety to offer all age groups. Build sandcastles with the kids on the safe clean beaches of the Côte d'Opale. Visit the many theme and leisure parks that are just a short drive from Calais.

For the more energetic and dedicated, the northern region of France has much to offer. Sail, windsurf, horse ride, fish, play golf - the choice of activity breaks and holidays are endless. And of course you must not miss out on the famous French hospitality you receive in the many restaurants, bars and cafes that are plentiful throughout the region.



To plan a short break or family holiday in France it is well worth visiting

www.seafranceholidays.com You will find a wealth of information on places to stay, attractions to visit, activity breaks, special offers and a whole lot more!

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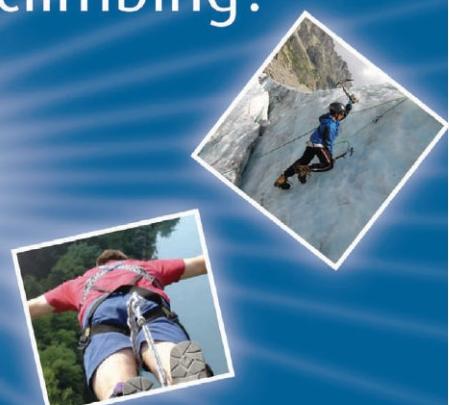
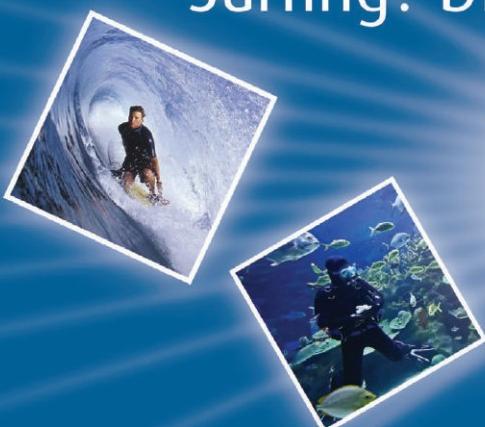
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Dream the impossible dream

IT is easy at times to read holiday brochures promising relaxation for parents and non-stop entertainment for children, and ponder if the combination is an impossible dream.

The true family holiday where youngsters and parents both emerge after two weeks with a smile on their face and not clumps of their own hair clutched in their clammy fists, is never easy to achieve.

So having packed my wife and three children (aged five, nine and 15) into the car, we headed off to France to put Eurocamp's claims of achieving such bliss to the test.

Our destination was the Loire in the south west; an area of forests, flat countryside and chateaux.

A pain-free, five-hour blast down the toll-roads of northern France – kicked off with the relative luxury of a P&O crossing and tickets to the club lounge – transported us into an area where the sheer size of the country was only too apparent.

Long, straight roads, with few cars, cutting through pretty, well-kept, villages, leading us eventually to our campsite – home for a week during the May half-term

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

holiday and miles away from the hustle and bustle.

Parc de Alicourts is close to the quaint village of Pierrefitte, 53km south of Orleans. A large site, it has an impressive central pool complex with wave machines and water slides, a large, modern, bar and even a sandy-beach lake. There was a golf course, tennis courts and a football pitch, play areas, a small shop and even a library.

It was clean, well-kept and the staff were nothing but helpful. The kids loved the space and, out of the peak season it was gloriously calming and relaxed.

For those more used to apartments and nightlife, the Eurocamp strategy is very different. Over 35 years, it has established itself as the market leader in family camping holidays, with a presence on more than 150 sites across Europe.

The emphasis is very much on being stress-free for the parents while providing the facilities to ensure the children wear themselves out so you can crack open a bottle of the finest cheap plonk to enjoy after the 10pm noise curfew kicks-in. And it works a treat.

This is no bring-your-own-tent affair, though. If you want a fort-



MARKET LEADER: Parc de Alicourts in the Loire has a large central pool complex

night under canvas you can do so – but Eurocamp's stock come complete with fridges and ovens and sprung beds.

For us, it was a mobile home with large living space, three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen with microwave and full size oven. They cost a little more, but are worth every penny.

Eurocamp's on-site couriers are there to advise and assist – and their tent comes complete with a host of toys and equipment the hol-

iday-maker can borrow; ideal when the weather takes a turn for the worse.

Recommended days out include a trip to Zoo Parc de Beauval an hour or so drive away, complete with koalas, and the gloriously ornate Chateau de Chambord.

But, in truth, a week on site satisfied all our requirements. For young families, Eurocamp can proudly boast it has indeed achieved the impossible dream.

FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	UK + 1 hour
Capital	Paris
Population	66.4 million
Currency	Euro (1.2 to £1 approx)
Religion	Christian
Climate	Temperate
Language	French

Holiday details

Chris Britcher was a guest of Eurocamp. He stayed in a three-bedroom comfort mobile home on Parc de Alicourts. A seven-night stay, including a crossing via Dover and Calais with P&O, in May, cost a total of £675 for two adults and three children. An upgrade to the P&O Club Lounge costs £12 per person booked in advance or £14 onboard. You can also travel via SeaFrance or, for an additional charge, Eurotunnel.

Eurocamp offers sites in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Croatia and Slovenia. Fly-drive deals are also available.

Eurocamp can be contacted on 0844 406 0552. Or visit its website: www.eurocamp.co.uk.

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British Grand Prix at Silverstone

Experience the excitement of the British Grand Prix 2008 at Silverstone. See all your favourite Formula 1 drivers including British sensation Lewis Hamilton* on this great-value break...

It's a must for all motor racing enthusiasts and offers you the unforgettable chance to see the best world-class drivers in action and to enjoy all the noise, excitement and atmosphere of this major sporting occasion.

The British Grand Prix is the oldest race in the Formula 1 calendar, with the first race of The Formula One World Championship held here in 1950. The circuit was formed from a former World War II aerodrome and is fast and challenging with famous corners and bends - Luffield, Becketts, Copse and Stowe, which test even the best driver's skill to the limit and exhilarating straights such as Pits and Hanger, where speeds up to 190mph have been recorded.

2007 World Champion Kimi Raikkonen was the winner of last year's race in his Ferrari, beating the McLaren pairing of Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso. This year Hamilton will be looking to join the elite of British drivers to win in front of the home crowd including Sterling Moss, Jackie Stewart, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill.

The Price includes:

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Midland's area hotel with dinner and full English breakfast inclusive
- Coaching to and from the hotel to Silverstone

- 1 day general admission walkabout ticket to the Grand Prix (Upgraded tickets may be available on request, call for details)

*Omega cannot be held responsible for the non-show of drivers
Prices based on two people sharing a twin/double room,
single supplement applies. Operated by Omega Holidays plc ABTA V4782



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PROPERTY NEWS

Brit buyers look south and west

BRITONS are still buying homes in continental Europe, where cash goes further than it does in the domestic market, according to analysts.

Paul Collins is property editor at overseas investor magazine BuyAssociation.

He said the attraction was not just financial gains, but the use of homes in the sun for holidays.

This makes southern and western European countries the most popular areas in which to buy.

Mr Collins said: "They will remain that way because of the ease of getting to them and the fact that the culture and economy is geared to foreigners buying property."

Emerging markets such as the former Eastern Bloc countries are still attractive to those looking for a purely financial investment.

Among the factors which help this are favourable immigration policies adopted by European Union states, many of which favour newcomers who can speak English.

In many countries, a points system operates which has a clear bias in favour of English speakers.

Southern comfort defies the gloom

THE South East saw the second highest growth in house prices across the UK as people in the region continued to defy the national credit crunch.

Latest figures take into account the change in prices in the 12 months leading up to April.

The highest annual house price growth was in London (7.5 per cent), followed by the South East (6.3 per cent).

Kent remains one of the most attractive places to buy in the country because of its communication links, including the high-speed rail link to London set to open next year.

Building projects such as the Thames Gateway and Ashford and its surrounds, are reportedly also unaffected by the recent gloom around the market.

Price rises in the North were far less impressive, in some areas just reaching one per cent.

The annual UK house price growth rate for first-time buyers fell from 4.9 per cent in March to 3.9 per cent in April.

However, national trends continue to look gloomy, with some experts predicting a two-year slump in the market.

Cheap, but beware studio flat pitfalls

■ BY NICK AMES

AS house prices fall, the idea of a studio flat becomes more attractive to buyers – but experts warn that there can be pitfalls.

Price is the main attraction and stamp duty is lower on a studio. But when the property market looks in good health, they are far less popular... so more difficult to sell on.

Other disadvantages include the lack of a second bedroom for guests or the possibility of letting accommodation and the way that estate agents calculate the worth of a property, using floor space as a major factor.

Additional minus factors include a lack of flexibility on floor usage because of the obvious limited space.

"When the market weakens and prices slip a little, it brings studios within reach of a wider audience," said Andy Finch, head of new homes sales in Manchester for Knight Frank.

"Buyers can save between £20,000 and £25,000, compared with a small one-bedroom unit."

But, while cheaper than one-bedroom properties, studios may not represent great value, according to market analysts, when the bigger picture is taken into account.

"Estate agents are now valuing property on the price per square footage, and this is not very flattering for studio apartments," said Russell Hunt, of Property Hunt.

There are other drawbacks to a one-room flat. A separate bedroom provides first-time buyers with the option to let a room if their monthly mortgage payments rise. And studios rarely provide a long-term base.

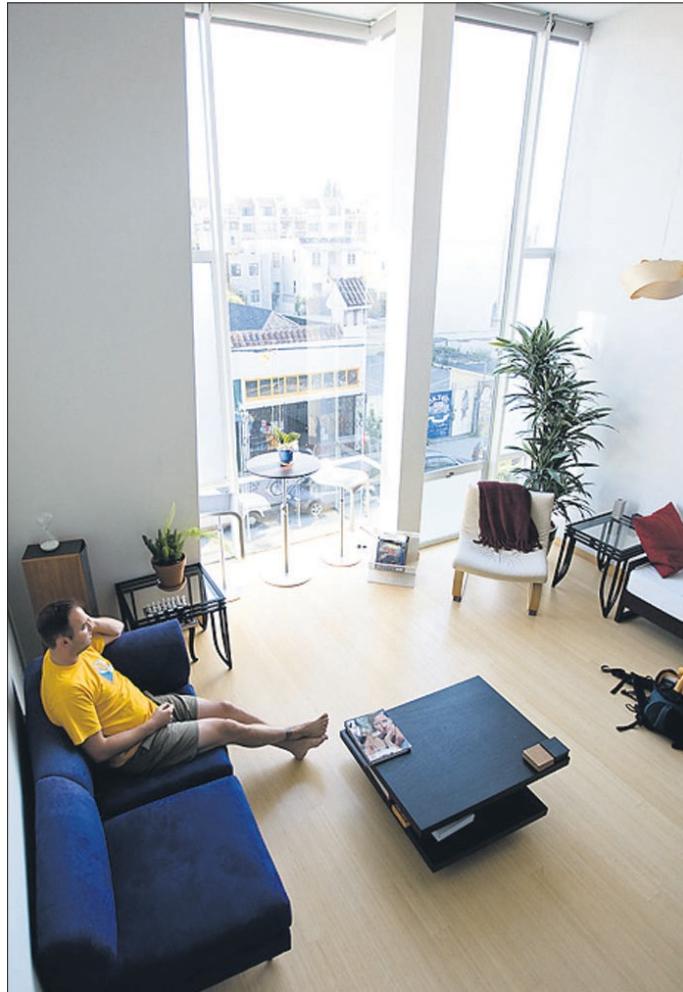
"Buyers and tenants grow out of studios more quickly than one-bed flats," said Mr Hunt. "The market for studios is very select, so in a buoyant period could prove tricky to sell."

Finance for a studio can also present problems.

"Lenders are not keen to lend on studios," said Melanie Bien, of Savills Private Finance.

"Much depends on the size of the property. They will want it to be at least 380 sq ft before they will lend."

"Part of the reason is concern over the resale value. There is far more demand for one-beds than studios, so it should be much easier to sell the former than the latter – and that protects the lender's investment."



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MOTORS NEWS



Yaris leaves Prius green with envy

TOYOTA'S Yaris supermini has been voted Green Car of the Year 2008 by the Environmental Transport Association (ETA) eco-watchdog.

Criteria used were power, emissions, fuel efficiency and noise levels, allowing the Yaris – in 1.4-litre D-4D 90 and three or five-door form – to also beat Toyota's own hybrid Prius (3rd) and Aygo city car (6th).

Key was exceptional aerodynamic efficiency leading to better economy – 62.8mpg on combined cycle – and noise reduction. A further benefit was CO₂ emissions of just 119g/km, qualifying for road tax Band-B (£35/year).



New Mondeo diesel shows ambition

FORD'S crusade to have the latest Mondeo considered alongside German executive rivals has stepped up with the launch of a 2.2-litre performance diesel option offering 0-60mph in 8.4 seconds.

Significantly, it is offered only on upmarket Titanium X and Titanium X Sport Mondeo versions, delivering a clear message to Audi and co.

Our motoring editor Steve Loader reports: "The Mondeo chassis delivers excellent grip plus taut handling without a trade-off on ride comfort. Giving it the responsive 2.2 diesel enables even greater exploitation of these virtues."



Aveo supermini tipped as Chevy's top seller

CHEVROLET has tipped the new Aveo supermini as its new best seller with supplies of the three-door version now joining the five-door launched in May.

Despite a new name, the Aveo is a heavily revised version of the Kalos created by famous Italian design studio Guigiaro.

While the Kalos profile and side creases are retained, the front has received the US brand's latest corporate look and features a horizontally-split grille with crossbeam wearing the Chevrolet gold 'bow-tie' logo. Prices: £7,695-10,645.



REFINED: The new Passat covers a lot of bases, from company car workhorse to executive transport for those not seduced by supposedly more glamorous – and expensive – rivals

A mainstream attack with executive class

ROAD TEST VW PASSAT

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★

Grip and responsiveness are excellent, yet the car delivers just the right level of comfort and refinement, especially noticeable across rural Kent after winter's usual upsurge of potholes, fraying edges and cracks. Needless to say, even in this high-output 170PS form, the 2.0-litre VW diesel is smooth and is well insulated from the cabin in any case, making the Passat a magnificent motorway cruiser and capable of delivering mid-40s to 50mpg.

Cabin ambience is also high quality, with well-arranged and durable switchgear, plentiful stowage pockets and cubby holes and excellent space efficiency that underlines how well the car competes with the likes of the Mercedes E-Class, BMW 5-Series and Audi A6 from a much higher price range.

And the provision of spacious leg and head room for three in the rear has not been at the expense of the boot – one of the largest in its class and a clue to the Estate's huge load-lugging capacity.

OK, the latest Passat is no 'people's car' in the image of the original Beetle, but it offers the comforts of a higher class to the mass market – priced from £15,825-26,365.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BIG 4X4s

SOARING fuel prices and road taxes have poleaxed new 4x4 sales and values for used ones. Figures from motor industry mouthpiece the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders reveal an 18.5 per cent drop in 4x4 registrations in May 2008 against May 2007. While small car volumes leapt by 120 per cent. But if you need a 4x4 for rural or towing work or like space and cover few miles, a little bit of cash now buys a lot on the used market. Here are some potential star buys.

RANGE ROVER



AGEING petrol examples of Range Rovers are ridiculously cheap to buy now, but just a few fill-ups at the pumps could see you spending the same amount all over again. Then again, a used RR delivers cut-price entry to an upper crust view of the road and an awful lot of kit and comfort for your money. Go for the highest spec you can afford though, preferably Vogue flagship level, to claw back most luxury in relation to gas guzzled.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

BMW X5



FOR many, the ultimate SUV (sports utility vehicle) – it's big, laden with badge cachet, drives like a BMW despite the high body and looks the business. All good reasons for desirability and why this 4x4 is holding its value better than most, though it still cannot defy 'erosion by running costs'. BMW's advanced diesels are the favourite buy, but you could save lots with a performance petrol model, especially as diesel is currently about a fifth dearer than its rival.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA LAND CRUISER



IF YOU need a 4x4 to tow a trailer, boat or a caravan then the Land Cruiser is one of the best, living up to rugged looks and helping it to defer the worst depreciation. As with the Range Rover, go for the best spec to make the most of its thirst for fuel, but don't worry about big repair bills; providing your Land Cruiser hasn't been abused or missed services, major problems shouldn't trouble your horizons.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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(51) Volvo V70 2.4 SE Estate, Met Blue, Leather trim	£4699.00
(53) Ford Focus Zetec 1600cc 16v Silver 62k miles 5dr hatch	£4499.00
(03) 307 Rapier, 1600cc 16v 3dr	£4499.00
(04) Smart Pulse Black 36,000 Miles	£4444.00



(53) Citroen Picasso 2.0 HDI, E/w, Alloys, AC, Auto Wipe/Lights £5695.00



(52) Peugeot 206 1.4 LX 3 door hatch met blue 50k miles, e/w, c/l, pas £3499.00

(Y) VW Golf SDI, diesel, 5 door, CD, PAS, very low miles	£4199.00
(03) Citroen Saxo VTS, Blue, fully loaded, low miles	£3999.00
(52) Peugeot 206 1.4 LX 3 door hatch met blue 50k miles, e/w, c/l, pas	£3499.00
(04) Peugeot Berlingo Van Hdi PAS, e/w, c/l	£3699.00



(04) Smart Pulse, Black 36,000 Miles £4444.00



(03) Peugeot 106 Independence, Light Blue, PAS, 3 door £2899.00

(53) Vauxhall Combe 1.6 LPG Euro, White Gas Bi-Fuel Van, equal to 70mpg	£3499.00
(51) Renault Clio Dynamique, High spec, aircon, alloys, e/w, sunroof, low miles only 32k	£3499.00
(52) Vauxhall Vectra Elegance 1.8 (new shape), Red, fully loaded	£3299.00
(03) Peugeot 106 Independence, Light met Blue, PAS, 3 Door	£2899.00
(Y) Vauxhall Corsa Expression 12 valve, red, 22k miles	£2799.00



(W) VW Golf Convertible Ltd Edt, only 600 made, red 1.6, 12 months MOT £1699.00



(X) Vauxhall Astra LS 1.6, 16v, 5 door, a/c, PAS, e/w, e/m, c/l £1999.00

(02) Vauxhall Vectra 2.2 CDX Met blue (old shape)	£2699.00
(X) Peugeot 206 GLX, Met dark green, CD stacker, 3dr, fully loaded, PAS, C/L, e/w, air con	£2699.00
(51) Punto 1.2, Black, alloys, spoiler, city steering	£2199.00
(X) Vauxhall Astra LS 1.6, 16v, 5 door, a/c, PAS, e/w, e/m, c/l	£2199.00
(X) Peugeot 306 Meridian 1.8 16v, Met blue, 1/2 leather, PAS, A/C, L/W, C/L, low miles	£1799.00



(N) Saab 9000 Griffin Turbo 230 BHP Auto, Green, rare £1999.00

(V) Rover 400 1.4 Air Con ABS	£1299.00
(R) Renault Clio, red c/l, Cd, PAS, SunR, 1149cc, Tax, MOT	£899.00



(03) Peugeot 307 2.0 HDI GLX, Metallic Green £4499.00

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147 - 147 - 1.6 TS Lusso, 3dr, 1231649, alfa romeo 147 1.6 ts lusso 3dr honda honda ashford drake & fletcher red, 2003, 13288 miles, manual, petrol, 3 doors, 1 previous owners, red, £3990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

147 - JTD Q2, g157fge, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, grey, 14000 miles, £13995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

156, TS 16V TURISMO, gj04vxa, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, cd player, radio, electric windows, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, 16" alloys, red, 58000 miles, £4699, Marshalls, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

159, LUSSO SPORTS WAGON, gj08frx, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, satellite navigation, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, climate control, red, 100 miles, £24995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTS, gj57fvg, alarm, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric seats, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, special alloy wheels, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, red, 100 miles, £24995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GT, LUSSO, gj07cmx, alarm, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, red, 17000 miles, £16995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

SPIDER, 3.2 V6, gj057ffy, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £24995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDI (140) Sport 3dr, metallic paintwork, black, sport seats, wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, dual climate zones, cd player, alloy wheels, metallic grey, 64000 miles, £10490, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDI SPORT 3dr, d22813127, abs, air bag, two air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, climate control, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, central locking, cd player, radio, stereo, 17" alloys, silver, 61342 miles, £12998, AutoPanel Maidstone, 01342 871518 (TRADE)

A3 - 1.8 T SPORT 3dr, 1067649, audi a3 1.8 t sport 3dr hyundai hyundai ashford drake & fletcher red, 2003, 27000 miles, manual, petrol, 3 doors, 1 previous owners, red, £3495, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

A3, 2003, abs alarm climate control cruise control, electric door mirrors, immobiliser, psr rear headrests, rear wiper, remote central locking, side airbags space saver spare wheel, steering wheel race adjustment, steering wheel reach adjustment, traction control, metallic silver, 48394 miles, £2495, WJ King Vauxhall, Farningham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

A4, SPORT, a04ab4, remote central locking, remote alarm, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, sports seats, cd player, electric mirrors, steering column, electric mirrors, electric windows, dual climate zones, cd player, radio, alloy wheels, rare and unusual car phone for further details*, yellow, 48793 miles, £16995, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

A4 - 2.0 TDI S LINE 4dr, 992649, aad 2.0 tdi s line 4dr silver, 2005, 32059 miles, manual, diesel, 4 doors, 1 previous owners, blue, £15280, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

A4, 1.6 HDI 16V 5X 5dr [110] 2005, 1.6 tdi 90 ps 5dr [110] diesel hatch, wicket red, 16816 miles, £7795, Masters Citroen, Penge, 020 8659 0909 (TRADE)

XSARA, 2.0 HDI 110 LX 5dr Auto, 2002, 2.0 hd1 110 lx 5dr auto diesel hatch, grey, 37000 miles, £3995, Wilmotth Ashford, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

A6, AVANT QUATTRO, v677xxe, remote central locking, full leather, head rests, rear headrests, power steering, cruise control, abs, air bags, leather and alcantara, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, electric sunroof, cd player, stereo, 19" alloys, 4x4, green, 11300 miles, £4999, Marshalls, Maidstone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

CHARADE, 1.0 SL 5dr Hatchback, 0707004, alloy wheels, electric window, central locking, pdc, front bumper, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, electric sunroof, cd player, stereo, 19" alloys, 4x4, green, 11300 miles, £4999, Marshalls, Maidstone, 01303 200 100 (TRADE)

GRAND MOVE, v5280h, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, airbag power steering, immobiliser electric windows, green, 36880 miles, £4995, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FESTA, 1.6 5DR 5dr [2000 - 2002], 17/12/2001, cd player driver airbag, immobiliser electric windows, green, 39950 miles, £4995, Invicta Motor, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

FESTA, 1.6 5T 5dr [Auto] [Climate], 02/2003/07, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, red, 10100 miles, £3500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FESTA, 1.2 ZETEC 5dr [Climate], 17/09/2005, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 13890 miles, £7000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FESTA, ST 2.0 3-door, ke07ewo, abs, necessary socket, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, anti-drip, air bag, driver airbag, alarm, alloy wheels, body kit side skirts, cd autochanger, deadlocks, electrodoor mirrors, electric windows, front fog lights, headlamp levelling, front screen, heated mirrors, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, metallic paint, mp3 player, on board computer, power folding mirrors, power steering, immobiliser, rear airbag, rear wash/wipe, remote central locking, rear looking, rear spoiler, seat belt pretensioners, split rear seats, sports exhaust, sports seats, steering wheel, privacy glass, technology pack, side stripes, performance blue, 10, 810 miles, £9, 590, County Garage Ltd, Hem Bay, 01227 374939 (TRADE)

COUPE, 1.16I SPORT 5dr [8], 12219317, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, climate control, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, brilliant silver, 12369 miles, £12999, AutoPanel Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 130 24424 (TRADE)

CINQUECENTO, m1994, manual locking manual windows, red, 74, 000 miles, £1195, Chertsey Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04/2005, 1.9i 3dr side door white ps 43,000 miles fsh lined, £3495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04/2005, 1.9i 3dr side door white ps 43,000 miles fsh lined, £3495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 02/2005, 1.9 i drk side door white elec window white 49,000 miles fsh bulkhead lined, £4600, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN RELAY 1800, 09/2005, 2.2 3,000, dolphin grey, 63000 miles, £8995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

CITROEN C2000, gj08vkr, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £24995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 600 D Enterprise REFRIGERATED / FRIDGE VAN, gj06pxu, remote central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, grp lined, gah equipment, white, 37000 miles, £7495, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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FORD CONNECT T200, 11/2005, 1.8 tdi 90 ps white side door 67,000 miles fsh, £4995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD CONNECT T200, 05/2004, 1.8 tdi 90 ps white 83,000 miles fsh, £4250, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD CONNECT T200, 10/2004, 1.8 tdi 75 ps svb white 47,000 miles cd elec windows, £4995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD CONNECT T200, 07/2005, 1.8 tdi 75 ps iwb hi top side door white 63,000 miles fsh, £5495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

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For further information, including salary details and an application pack, contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answer phone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk, or visit: www.southkent.ac.uk

The deadline for receipt of all completed application forms is 5pm on Wednesday 2nd July.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

South Kent College
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Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people. The organisation provides services from over twenty service bases across Kent, Surrey and the London boroughs, employs approximately 300 paid and unpaid staff and has an annual income exceeding £10.5 million.

KCA
Services in the Community

REF: 488 - Director of Development and Marketing

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You will be able to evidence

- Extensive knowledge of the substance misuse and mental health fields or a related health/social welfare sector
- Experience of inter-agency working at a senior level and of relevant commissioning structures and processes
- Experience of successful large scale contract acquisition, service set up and delivery
- Degree level education together with an appropriate professional/managerial qualification

You will have an ability to work independently and imaginatively as well as contributing and collaborating effectively within a cohesive management structure.

For application forms contact: KCA (UK), 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Telephone: 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351, Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: 6th July 2008
Interview date: 22nd July 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

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Medway Campus

WEB PROJECT LEADER

Ref: 00987/K3

The Office of Development & Communications is looking for an experienced project leader who has high-level IT skills and a background in web development to join the Marketing Office. You should have excellent team leader and communication skills, as you will be required to organise the development work of the web team and train members of the university in the use of CMS. You will be required to proactively participate in cross-university and external network groups. You will therefore be operating at senior levels and be representing the university in external meetings.

You need to show a methodical approach to development and be able to approach all issues with objectivity, showing understanding of key issues and client requirements and suggesting innovative solutions to problems that may arise.

The core of the role is to assess the current website and CMS in light of both corporate and Marketing Office objectives. You must also establish a developmental plan that includes the integration of the website and CMS with internal portals and a prospective student portal, and draw up a schedule of communications and responsibilities.

Salary scale: £33,780 - £41,545 per annum inclusive

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To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, e-mail jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5pm on 20 June 2008.



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Should be able to show previous experience of a comparable standard in this or another company.

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We are looking for a person who is able to contribute to and support the work of the two areas, which both work to strict deadlines. The two principal areas of work are;

- Assisting with the statutory function of maintenance of the Local Land Charges Register and the receiving, processing and completing of Local Authority land charges searches;

- Assisting with the statutory functions of the annual preparation of the Register of Electors, the monthly rolling registration process; the administration of postal and proxy voting and the administration of all types of elections.

This is a full time position, 37 hours per week, however during an election period and the annual canvass additional hours may be required and annual leave will be restricted. The successful applicant will be required to be proficient in both areas and be able to work with the minimum of supervision as part of the team successfully delivering these two functions. Both areas operate using specialist computerised packages for which training will be given, however experience in information and communication technology is essential, you must also be able to demonstrate proficient keyboard skills, attention to detail, maintain confidentiality of information and be able to communicate effectively.

For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Valma Page - Electoral Services & Local Land Charges Manager on 01303 853341.

Application details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk or call our 24 hour answer phone service on 01303 853481.

Closing date for completed applications is
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Demelza Hospice Care for Children provides specialist care and support to children with life limiting conditions and their families. Posts are based at our hospice in Sittingbourne, Kent.

For Nursing Posts Are You?

- A qualified children's nurse (RSCN, RNCB)?
- Able to demonstrate good clinical skills and up to date Continuing Professional Development?
- Experienced in working either in palliative care or with children with complex needs?

For Care Assistant Posts Are You?

- Qualified at NVQ level II in a relevant healthcare subject?
- Able to demonstrate the ability and willingness to increase your skills and work towards NVQ level III and our own in-house competencies?
- Experienced in working either in palliative care, or with children with complex medical or psychosocial or behavioral or educational needs?

For Both Posts, Are You?

- Able to contribute to an excellent team in a highly specialized environment?
- Able to value the benefits of quality time spent with the whole family providing holistic care?
- Able to commit to an 8 week rota with pro rata rotation onto night duty and weekends? Full and part time hours available but all shifts must be undertaken.

As an Investors In People employer we know how important You are and can offer -

- Structured on going education, support and professional development.
- Competitive salary levels, pension package (including NHS pension if already contributing), pay enhancements for weekends, nights and weekend working as part of our shift system.
- Good annual leave and excellent working environment.

Informal visits warmly welcomed. For an application pack contact Recruitment Line on 01795 845295

Visit our website on www.demelzahouse.org

Closing Date 26th June, 2008

Enhanced Disclosure checks by the CRB will be undertaken for successful applicants. Demelza is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy. Registered Charity No. 1039651.

Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DZ

Demelza House is working towards equal opportunities employment and operates a no smoking policy



Mid-Kent College of Higher & Further Education is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with ambitious plans to build on its existing reputation.

At a time of unprecedented change the College is looking to recruit professionals to help deliver excellence in the following areas:

Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: KS01

Salary: £24,361 - £27,897

We currently have an exciting opportunity for a creative and dynamic individual within the Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and will be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working. You will have a degree in a relevant subject area and experience of teaching in FE would be advantageous. The successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards an appropriate teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.

Lecturer in Art & Design Ref: KS02

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

As a Lecturer in Art & Design you will deliver a range of courses to students. The successful candidate will be expected to design and deliver new courses and contribute to the continuing development of the Art Department. You will have an appropriate Art & Design qualification and hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Healthcare Ref: KS03

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

The post-holder will be involved in the delivery and teaching of Healthcare programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.



The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Closing date: Friday, 27 June 2008

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



achievement

employability

experience

development

Canterbury College



Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Co-ordinator Theatre Production Arts – Technical and Design Ref: 07/50

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 pro rata per annum.

Co-ordinator Mathematics Ref: 08/61

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum.

Lecturer in Horticulture and Land Based Ref: 08/84

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum. One year fixed term or until 31 August 2009.

Lecturer in Computer Games and Interactive Media Ref: 08/54

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum.

Lecturer Animal Care & Land Based Ref: 01/144

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum.

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care Ref: TD13

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum.

Please note the above two posts would be considered as a combined full time post.

Learning Support Independent Living & Leisure Skills Ref: 08/81 & 08/82

2 x 18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum.

Learning and Behaviour Support Assistant Ref: 08/83

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum.

Student Activities Assistant Ref: 02/137

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum.

Faculty Administrator Sciences, Humanities and Languages Ref: 06/160

37 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum.

Publications & Design Officer Ref: 08/25

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 23 June 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme ■ Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations ■ Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre ■ Staff Discount Scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



achievement

employability

experience

development

Sheppey College

Sheppey College

Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.



Lecturer Cross College Key Skills Ref: 08/36

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum.

Supply NVQ Assessors Early Years (based at Canterbury College) Ref: S/NVQ

Various hours available, salary range £17,727 - £25,418 pro rata per annum.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 23 June 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme ■ Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations ■ Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 15,000 students of all ages. As a further and Higher Education College, we are the largest education institution in Kent.

We currently have the following opportunities:

Lecturer - Public Services

Ref: T1325

37 hours per week

Folkestone

We are currently seeking a lecturer to teach a variety of Public Services courses. Operating as course leader, the successful candidate will have teaching experience, ideally within FE, have worked with 14 - 19 year olds and have 3 years experience in a uniformed role. Above all, you will be committed to student success.

The closing date for this post only is 5pm, Monday 30th June 2008.

Tutor - KCC Project (Learning Disabilities)

Ref: T1326

Variable hours

Folkestone

You will create and deliver a range of short courses (3 - 6 hours in duration) on the KCC Care Project across a variety of locations. You will be responsible for the management of students learning, all design, delivery and evaluation of training events.

Administrator - Health and Care CoVE

Ref: S2139

18.5 hours per week

Folkestone

Administrator - Construction

Ref: S2140

37 hours per week

Ashford

Administrator - Health and Care KCC Project

Ref: S2141

37 hours per week

Folkestone

The purpose of these administrative roles is to provide a professional, administrative support service and assist in the smooth running of the relevant department on a day-to-day basis.

The closing date for the receipt of all completed application forms for the above vacancies (except Public Services) is 5pm, Wednesday 25th June 2008.

For further information, including salary details and an application pack for the above vacancies please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.

Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS**KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- The responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd ("the media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- Any weekly annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsatisfactory material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool must be returned to the media owner. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and license for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising purposes will be retained by the media owner. Any photographs and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be aware of any statements or claims promotional or otherwise in relation to the products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and some media owners shall not be liable for any damage caused by insertion into media within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date information or copy of the media owner's standard placement rates. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to resolve, in full, outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership if a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008) must be recalculated and account will be settled in line with the revised rate card effective July 2007-June 2008. This will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser per insertion. The advertiser's statement of account will be sent to the advertiser on a monthly basis. Discounts will be applied to the advertiser's next insertion (July 2008). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven weeks' written notice and any bookings given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of the TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver Standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 24 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will charge a late fee charge for any TV production. The standard hourly rate should be quoted by the media owner to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will agree and accept that there are only two choices of voiceovers to choose from. If the advertiser wishes to use a different voiceover to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music, it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will be at KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's cost. Being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with photographic stills from a session of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or commerciality of the TV commercial. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims made by the media owner to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will be rejected.
- All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 20th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
- In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to suspend all further payments to the Advertiser and/or terminate the contract.
- In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated at a daily rate of the two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
- Notwithstanding anything else in these terms and conditions relating to the payment of debts by the Advertiser, failure to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd for whatever reason, the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- It is the intention of which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may agree with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- Advertisers will not be able to place certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal action arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising material.
- In order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser; the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from March 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk



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VACANCY for a SALES PERSON

at Kent County Cricket Club CANTERBURY



The Commercial Department at Kent County Cricket Club has a vacancy for a **full time sales person** who has previous experience of telesales, IT skills and a knowledge of Microsoft office.

Based at The St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury, the successful applicant will be expected to sell Kent CCC advertising, cricket related hospitality, and conferencing and non cricket related functions at the Ground.

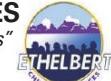
If you are interested please write - enclosing a current CV to:

Jon Fordham – Commercial & Operations Director at Kent County Cricket Club, The St Lawrence Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3NZ or email: jon.fordham.kent@ecb.co.uk

Previous applicants need not apply.

ETHELBERT CHILDREN'S SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children for over thirty years"

**Residential Worker****Deal**

Shift Pattern including weekends & sleep-ins.

Knowledge preferred but opportunities available for candidates with a desire to undergo training and a willingness to join our existing dedicated childcare teams.

Starting salary (full-time) £16,354

enhanced payments according to current position.

Please contact Personnel Department for an application form:

Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ 01843 823762

We are an equal opportunities employer



Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.

REF: 490 - YOUNG PERSONS' DRUG AND ALCOHOL WORKER**DUAL DIAGNOSIS PROJECT – THANET**

Salary £21,412 – £26,835 pro rata (SCP 26 – 33)

30 hours per week

Fixed Term until 31st March 2009

KCA Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Service provides specialist drug and alcohol services for young people aged 10–18, their parents / carers and other agencies. We have been commissioned for a second year to work within an exciting project targeting young offenders who present with both substance misuse and mental health needs. The project works very closely with the local Youth Offending Team and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

We require an experienced worker to offer intensive packages of community support to both young people and their families/carers/support networks. The emphasis will be on developing creative multi-agency interventions and care packages with which to engage these groups.

You must have significant experience of working with young offenders and / or substance misuse. Relevant professional training is essential.

Should you wish to discuss this role informally please contact Sarah Mills on (01227) 456744.

For application forms contact: KCA, Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT.

Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351

Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: Friday 27th June 2008

Interview date: TBC

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity no: 292824

What could you contribute to Britain's best free newspaper?

SENIOR REPORTER

We are looking for a first class reporter to join the small but talented team at the award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and our associated digital platforms.

The ideal candidate will be hard working, imaginative and able to produce excellent copy under pressure.

We want someone who can help set the news agenda for the county by breaking exclusive stories that will be read by people across Kent.

You will be someone who can produce well-written features and human interest stories that get to the heart of a subject.

Candidates must have a relevant qualification and at least two years' experience of working as a news journalist.

To apply, write to: The Editor, Kent on Sunday, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR, or email ian.patel@kosmedia.co.uk

UK regional newspaper of the year



Award-winning publications

Business Link has two key priorities: helping businesses grow and succeed and ensuring that the opportunity for entrepreneurial success is open to everyone within the county. We've already contributed to the growth of thousands of small and medium-sized businesses as well as providing support and guidance for people wishing to start a business.

We are now looking for two people to join our team of dedicated professional business people who work closely with Kent SMEs:

■ An **Adviser Manager** will, together with a colleague, provide leadership and management for the team while generating and maintaining positive operational relationships with key stakeholders and partners in the county. **Salary is c£42K plus excellent benefits for the right person who will have:**

- Exceptional & proven team leadership skills at senior level.
- Have the ability to motivate a team to deliver excellent customer service.
- Have the ability to see the wider, or corporate perspective and be very politically astute.
- Have the attributes of an innovator and achiever; exceptional influencer and negotiator.

■ An **Adviser** will build relationships with SMEs, to help them grow and become more profitable by encouraging them to sign up to a review of their business and complete an action plan. This will also require analysing the business needs to identify opportunities for growth and improvement. **Salary is c£32K plus excellent benefits for the right person who will have:**

- Experience of working at management level in / with businesses and empathy with the issues they face
- Excellent communication & relationship-building skills & good IT skills

The company is an equal opportunities employer and all applications will be given equal consideration regardless of age, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

For details of how to apply, please contact Jane Loder on 01732 878004 or jane.loder@businesslinkkent.co.uk by 25 June 2008.



Demelza Hospice Care for Children has further opportunities to join our dynamic and successful children's charity providing high quality care to life limited children and support to their families.

**Human Resources Officer**

c.£21-23k

Demelza Hospice Care for Children provides specialist care and support to children with life limiting conditions and their families. Based from our hospice in Sittingbourne, you will undertake some travel to other sites in Kent, East Sussex and south London, providing generalist support and advice to line managers and employees.

With 150 multi disciplinary employees across 3 sites, plus a number of retail outlets, and 750 volunteers, you will be a competent generalist who enjoys the whole spectrum of HR practice and can be innovative to problem solving and thorough in delivery of a number of concurrent projects.

Working within a small HR team you will be a strong team player and have some understanding of the charity/voluntary sector with an appreciation for the diversity of disciplines you will be supporting.

With a minimum of a CIPD CPP and previous experience in a generalist role, you will enjoy a challenge and be self motivated in keeping your knowledge of all relevant issues up to date, demonstrating recent personal CPD. You will need a driving license, willingness to travel, and an ability to re-prioritise a changing workload.

You will need previous experience of recruitment, all aspects of performance management, including appraisal systems, capability and disciplinary issues, contracts of employment, and all aspect of employee relations.

Closing Date 1st July, 2008

Informal visits and chats warmly welcomed with Lavinia Jarrett, Head of Human Resources on 01795 845207. For an application pack contact Recruitment Line on 01795 845295.

Visit our website on www.demelzahouse.org

Enhanced Disclosure checks by the CRB will be undertaken for successful applicants. Demelza is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy. Registered Charity No. 1039651.

Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DZ



Registered Charity No. 1039651

A disclosure check will be required for the successful applicant. Demelza House is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

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Use our tools and create a first class CV. See how good your CV is and take advantage of a free CV review.



View the latest vacancies with new Jobs posted daily, read full job descriptions and apply online.

Take advantage of our online services and receive Jobs by Email, get professional advice, build your bespoke CV and read Company Profiles from the county's leading recruiter's.



JobsforKent.co.uk

Here to help you find your next job



yourkentdating

LOOKING FOR ROMANCE? NEW PEOPLE JOIN ALL THE TIME... AND IT'S FREE!



WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

OUTGOING

Single mum, 20, very caring and loving, enjoys the usual things in life, socialising, music, films, seeks genuine male for a relationship or just friends. Box 891152 **T**

OUNDING GOOD?

21yr old female, blonde hair, medium build, enjoys country walks, fun nights out, playing golf etc...looking for guy 21-27 to share fun times with! Heartfield. Box 891190 **T**

FUNNY GIRL

Kind, creative, humorous girl, 23, seeking witty, loving older man interested in theatre, TV, comedy and music, and with a love of animals. Box 930187 **T**

TWO LIPS FROM AMSTERDAM!

I'm a 21 year old blonde girl from the Netherlands, 21, I love swimming, power-walking, and music/festivals! Looking for a lovely man with GSOH, for something special! Eastbourne. Box 893230 **T**

See online for:

• Success Stories



Read or write your own Success Story. Our members have been keen to write about their stories and how they met - who knows, their stories may help you in your search! We are always glad to hear from you.

• Increase your dating success

Online, say more about yourself and your perfect partner with our extended profile, add extra photos to your profile, even change your ad's colour! It makes for a great dating advert that other people are bound to like!

• Search at your leisure

If you can't find who you're looking for on our page here, you will find so many more members online. Browse, read, hear and see members.

www.people2people.co.uk/kos.asp

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

28yr old, mother of 1, enjoys cooking, films, music and going to the pub. Looking for a man to have a good giggle with. Eastbourne Box 891393 **T**

ANOTHER GLASS?

28yr old, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft10, slim, attractive. GSOH, love evenings outfit with wine, seeking similar gent to fall in love with! Box 442284 **T**

SOMEONE SPECIAL...

Single Mum, 39, dark hair/blue eyes, medium build, enjoys pubs, cinemas, eating in/out, DVDs, concerts, WLTM honest, reliable male with GSOH to make me smile. Box 441955 **T**

PILLION DOLLAR BABE!

Slim lady, 31, 5ft9, shoulder-length dark hair, hazel eyes. Loves having fun and meeting new people, enjoys superclubs, music, pubs, socialising with friends, keeping fit. Box 441313 **T**

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Outgoing female, 31, tall, skinny, like going out, eating out, socialising, walks, looking for a funny, bold gentleman with good looks for lasting companionship. Maidstone. Box 441023

ALL IN GOOD TIME

Tall, slim female, 31, new to the Christian area, loves watching football, shopping, travel; seeking tall, white, loving male 54-47 for LTR. Box 437788 **T**

EQUESTRIAN OF SPORT!

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **T**

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, WLTM someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights out and cinema. Ryde from Whistable, please call again, leave contact details! Box 406670 **T**

MADE FOR EACH OTHER?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, slim, attractive. GSOH, love evenings outfit with wine, seeking similar gent to fall in love with! Box 442284 **T**

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy being with my family and friends, dining, good food, beach walks, seeking male for honest love and romance. Box 133932 **T**

MUM'S THE WORD

Attractive black female, 36, 5ft7, slim-medium build, short dark brown hair, brown eyes, single Mum, seeking male 36-40, honest, kind, caring, for potential romance. Box 439329 **T**

THE GENTLE LADY

Easygoing female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for lots of love and laughter. Box 437913 **T**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft6, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term serious relationship. Box 438102

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **T**

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME

Single mum of 3, 37, lives in Eastbourne, fun-loving, great to be around, been hurt in the past, heart has been broken and needs mending. Box 908055 **T**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mom, 38, 5ft2, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **T**

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MOVING ON FROM FRIENDSHIP

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, nice smile, looking for a like-minded, upbeat man. Box 89177 **T**

JAZZ FUSION

Single girl, hardworking, kind and caring, 32, brown hair/eyes, nice smile, looking to meet similar for let's see how it goes. Box 901072 **T**

NEO?

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, rural county lass from farming background, seeking my lovely countryman to make me forever happy. Box 892265 **T**

SHY

Attractive female, 53*, 30, brown hair/eyes, GSOH, likes countryside, restaurants, tap-dance, clay modelling, seeks charming family man, 37-42. Steve 40, from Maidstone please call again. Box 805385 **T**

FUN-LOVING

attractive female, 31*, 5'4", size 12, dark hair, blue eyes, seeking highlighter, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for happy relationship. Turbridge Wells. Box 308734 **T**

NESTLE UP

Single, kind, caring animal lover, 34, from Kent, likes cooking, cinema, the arts, most music, seeks non-smoking male 34-38 for LTR. Box 440693 **T**

LET'S TAKE THE CHORES

Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redheaded, Likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLTM male for fun and friendship. Box 895958 **T**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft6, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 **I**

DON'T PAUSE BY

Friendly, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, parties, gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 **T**

GET IT TOGETHER

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest, good-natured, friendship first. Box 895694 **T**

LAST CHANCE?

Lively, understanding female, 51, large build, WLTM genuine, loving, male 46-58, for lasting, loving relationship. Faversham. Box 399271 **T**

LOVELY LADY...

53, fit and healthy, single now for nine years and can't find the right man! If you enjoy sports and live music, you'll be chat! Box 923309 **T**

COAST AND COUNTRY

Attractive female, 50, 5'5", slim, dark hair, likes music, dancing, reading, coast, countryside. Seeking kind, genuine male, 45-60, for LTR. Box 430302 **T**

MEND THIS BROKEN HEART

Homely type, 54, a smoker enjoys, the seaside, TV and quiet nights in, WLTM tall builder-type to be my best friend & soulmate. Box 442411 **T**

IN MY SIGHTS

Lovely, curvaceous lady, 57yr old, enjoys visual arts and travelling, WLTM a good male, 60-69 for friendship, maybe romance. Box 441302 **T**

MAKE YOUR LIFE COOL

Hi I'm Mandie, chocolate brown hair, blue eyes, 48, seeking human male (preferably) for nights out, socialising, clubbing, meals, lots of laughs and much more. Box 437489 **T**

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Genuine, outgoing single mum, 48yr old, enjoys swimming, the outdoors and travelling. Within a male to travel and enjoy life with. Take the plunge! Box 891011 **T**

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Honest, youthful 40yr old female, newly married, seeking a mate to spread her wings and meet a nice chap! Let's chat! Box 895908 **T**

STARTING OVER

Fun-loving, friendly, caring, N/S benefits, size 12, 5ft6, likes to laugh, enjoy myself, looking for that special person to share my life. Eastbourne. Box 897642 **T**

FROM MR WRONG TO MR RIGHT

Kay 43, 5ft1, medium build, enjoys cinema, bowling, restaurants, foreign travel, the beach! seeking my Mr Right, so give me a call. Box 440574

MY MATE, MARMITE!

Niki 44, I'm like you will love or hate me. Cuddly, outgoing, female looking to be captured with laughter: are you brave enough? Box 884205 **T**

FOOTBALL FANATIC

Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, blonde eyes, green hair, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384 **T**

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Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S man to share things with. Box 429682 **T**

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Hi I'm Sarah, 51, 5ft2, long dark hair, slim, likes eating out, socialising, lots of interest! Seeking friendship, maybe something more later. Box 440426 **T**

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Long-established firm in multi-million deals

A COMMERCIAL law partner at one of the South East's leading law firms Furley Page has helped a UK offshoot of a global plastics manufacturing and supply group in two reorganisations involving asset and share purchases worth tens of millions of pounds.

Susan Jennings, 35 is head of the corporate team at Furley's Thames Gateway office at Chatham. She worked with an Aliaxis Holdings UK team on the reorganisations redistributing millions of pounds within the group and a buyback of shares in one of the UK subsidiaries for more than £60 million.

Established 280 years ago, Furley has offices in Canterbury and Whitstable, as well as in Chatham.

Fuel rise unnecessary

A MASSIVE £505 million in tax on fuel has been raked in by the Government in just a few weeks. The British Chambers of Commerce say this is the same as what will be raised by the proposed 2p fuel duty rise in October during this tax year – so the rise is unjustifiable.

Its model estimates the increase in the North Sea oil tax revenues will be £390m of the £505m windfall, and £115m is extra VAT on fuel at the pump.

Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce chief executive Tracey Manley said: "We have taken soundings from our members and, with the recession biting, it is incomprehensible they should be asked pay more for fuel. Many are struggling to remain competitive."

Avoid negative effect

STRESS and depression can surface in any company – and they can have negative knock-on effects on efficiency.

Maidstone solicitors Brachers say that the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service has published guidance which indicates that three in every ten employees will have a mental health problem in any one year.

Maria Passemard of its employment team said signs to look out for are: behavioural changes, inability to cope with workloads or pressure, loss of interest, absenteeism and personal conflicts.

'Sickies' gap widens - public sector staff three days off extra

A RECORD gap opened up last year between days off sick taken by public sector and private sector workers – with public sector workers taking an average of nine days and private workers less than six.

The gulf between the two absence rates – the public was 55 per cent higher than the 5.8-day private average – was revealed in a survey which showed that the private sector improved its rate, while the public sector remained static compared with 2006.

The findings, in the latest CBI/AXA Absence Survey, also showed that of the 172 million days lost to absence in 2007, more than one in ten – 12 per cent – are thought to be non-genuine.

These 21 million 'sickies' cost the economy £1.6 billion and two-thirds of employers think that some staff are using them to extend weekends.

Sixty per cent said that fake sickness was used to extend holiday, and a third of employers suspect that 'sickies' are used for special events like birthdays and major football games.

As a whole, absence from work cost the UK economy £13.2 billion last year – while in the South



BETTER? Maybe, but public-sector workers take an average of nine days a year sick, three more than their private-sector counterparts

East the average employee in the South East took 7.4 days sick.

CBI South East regional director Malcolm Hyde said: "Everyone agrees that sick people need time off work.

"But employers face two serious and expensive challenges – dealing with bogus sick days, and helping those with long-term illness return to work when they are fit to do so.

"People who award themselves 'sickies' are acting unfairly, leaving their colleagues to pick up their work.

"Those with long-term illnesses need time to recover – nobody expects anyone to be at the office checking their emails the day after a heart bypass.

"But in many cases, like those involving stress or back pain, firms that keep in touch with

employees and offer flexible working have been successful at reducing long-term absence levels."

Although only five per cent of absence spells became long-term, they accounted for a massive 40 per cent of all time lost, costing £5.3 billion.

Long-term absence accounted for half of all time lost in the public sector, but under a third (31 per cent) in the private sector.

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Tony Patey asks if the county council is getting its role muddled

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Town hammered by rampant Whitstable

TIM Wilson's unbeaten half century proved crucial as Ashford Town 2nd XI slumped to a seven-wicket defeat at the hands of Whitstable.

Town batted first and were restricted to just 108 runs, with Whitstable's David Pay taking the first four wickets for just 34 runs.

Whitstable made light work of the total set by Ashford and surpassed 108 within 30 overs to clinch the match.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Sam Hancock talks about the Le Mans 24 hour race and the Porsche Carrera

Tenterden let down by poor batting display

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

TENTERDEN'S batsmen struggled against some good bowling from the home side as they lost what turned out to be a tight game away to Orpington by three wickets.

Asked to bat first, Tenterden were in trouble at 59-4 with Andrew Crawford, Paul Brann, Ben Daking and Tamir Chanda back in the pavilion.

However, Tim Curteis (32) and Daniel McDonald (27) put on 35 to steady the ship a little but the damage had already been done. Mark Brann scored 23 at the end of the innings to give it a bit more of a respectable look of 141 all out.

Orpington opener Paul Sheldon played

a gritty innings at the top of the order to steer his side towards victory. The opener's 72, which included six boundaries, came from 153 balls and he must have been kicking himself after getting out just one short of the winning total.

Chanda (2-40), Alistair Neale (2-35) and Mark Baker (1-26) all bowled admirably for the away side and although they took wickets at regular intervals, their poor score with the bat ensured Orpington were able to scrape home by three wickets.



ADMIRABLE: But Tenterden's bowlers were let down by poor batting display

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Orpington CC - 1st XI v Tenterden CC - 1st XI

Tenterden

	Runs
Tim Curteis b Bradford	32
Andrew Crawford ct Patel b Ingram	8
Paul Brann ct Sheldon b Bradford	8
Ben Daking ct Robinson b Bradford	1
Tamir Chanda ct Watts b Schmidt	11
Daniel McDonald ct Robinson b Schmidt	27
Ben Price st Hall b Watts	3
Paul Hope lbw b Schmidt	0
Alistair Neale not out	18
Mark Brann ct Ingram b Schmidt	23
Mark Baker st Hall b Ingram	0

Extras (2lb 3w 4nb) 10
Total (all out, 50 overs) 141

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Neil Bradford	15	5	27	3
Stephen Ingram	12	3	37	2
Christopher Watts	13	3	35	1
Mark Baker	10	1	39	4

Extras (2lb 1lw 5nb) 12
Total (7 wickets, 48.3 overs) 142

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Ben Daking	5	1	20	0
Timir Chanda	15	3	40	2
Mark Baker	14.3	6	26	1
Alistair Neale	9	2	35	2
Tim Curteis	5	1	18	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Upchurch CC - 1st XI v Ashford Town - 3rd XI

MICHAEL Hales junior continued his superb start to the season to help blow Ashford Town out for a paltry 28 inside 21 overs.

Former Kent and England player Dean Headley set the tone for the day with a knock of 112 and was well supported by Lee Taylor (81) and Hales junior (28 not out). Headley then declared after Upchurch had scored 250-3 off 43 overs.

Hales junior then cleared up for the home side in recording figures of 5-5 off his five overs to help Upchurch win by a massive 222 runs.

Upchurch

	Runs
Dean Headley	112
Jim Phillips	29
Lee Taylor	81
Michael Hales Jnr	28
Daniel Parker	0
Sam Bewick	0
Michael Hales	0
Warren Little	0
Kevin Collis	0
Tim Mullis	0
Andy Holmwood	0

Extras (4lb 2w 8nb) 8

Total (3 wickets dec, 431 overs) 250

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Darren Cooper	12	3	51	1
Thomas Bailey	11	1	61	1
Matthew Eccles	8	1	61	1
Jason Boulter	7	0	45	0
James Cramis	5	0	36	0

Extras (2lb 9lw 1nb) 8

Total (7 wickets, 50 overs) 188

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Peter Edmonds	10	0	46	1
Andrew Eddicott	15	3	34	3
Andrew O'Rourke	15	1	44	2
Jamie Askew	10	0	51	1

Extras (2lb 2lw 1nb) 8

Total (7 wickets, 50 overs) 188

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Julian Day	14			
Luke Reeves	10			
Liam Tegg	22			
Tim Pichowski	1			
James Watson	37			
Stuart Paine	28			
Simon Taylor	37			
Sam Kennett	16			
Craig Buckham	11			
Gavin Hope	0			
Mohsin Raza	0			

Extras (2lb 1lw 1nb) 8

Total (7 wickets, 50 overs) 188

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
James Bamber	14			
Daniel Rees	7			
Jamie Askew	65			
Oliver Williams	16			
Martin Pratt	35			
Adam Dicker	28			
Beau Condliffe	18			
Andrew O'Rourke	0			
Andy Jackson	0			
Peter Edmonds	0			
Andrew Eddicott	0			

Extras (3lb 1lw 1nb) 9

Total (5 wickets, 472 overs) 192

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
James Bamber	14			
Daniel Rees	7			
Jamie Askew	65			
Oliver Williams	16			
Martin Pratt	35			
Adam Dicker	28			
Beau Condliffe	18			
Andrew O'Rourke	0			
Andy Jackson	0			
Peter Edmonds	0			
Andrew Eddicott	0			

Extras (3lb 1lw 1nb) 9

Total (all out, 20.3 overs) 28

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
James Cramis	0	1	18	0
Stuart Saunders	8	1	35	0
Tevis Knight (sr)	13	0	101	1
David Player	5	1	21	0
Nicholas Daking	10	0	47	1
Simon Bessant	8	0	38	1

Tenterden

	Runs
Nick Daynes	44
Simon Bessant	17
David Player	12
Scott Freeman	20
Alastair Hudd	29
Richard Peartman	0
Stuart Saunders	4
Nicholas Daking	2
Tevis Knight (sr)	2
James Cramis	7

Bowlers

	Runs
Tony May	48
Max Melbourn	17
Carl Nightingale	15
David Roffey	62
Mark Epps	19
Stuart Brown	2

Camier pips Shakey to clinch first victory

SUPERBIKES

■ BY TOM HOWARD

LEON Camier clinched his first-ever British Superbike victory in an eventful race weekend at Snetterton, and was only a lap away from claiming a stunning double win.

The 21-year-old has been coming close to notching his first win, even though this is just his second season in the series. He produced a faultless ride in race one after qualifying third on the grid, with team-mate Shane 'Shakey' Byrne on pole.

Honda's Leon Haslam took the lead from the start and was hotly pursued by Camier. The Ashford-born rider did not take long to make a move past Haslam for the lead, as he used the slipstream on the Revett straight to shoot through.

The two frontrunners exchanged positions twice before Byrne reeled Camier in. The two team-mates switched places on the final lap, with Byrne briefly taking the lead, before Camier fought back to take the chequered flag.

Just nine thousandths of a second separated the pair as they clinched an Airwaves Ducati one-two.

Race two saw Camier storm into the lead from the start, where he stayed up until the last lap. But Byrne, who had been 13th on



MAIDEN WIN: Leon Camier stood on top of the podium for the first time in his British Superbike career

lap one, stormed through to take the lead and cross the line for a stunning victory, with Camier finishing second.

The Ashford rider was delighted with his first win and now lies second in the British Superbike Championship.

He said: "Thanks must go to the Airwaves Ducati team for all their hard work. They have been brilliant all weekend and my

results are really down to them. I am so pleased to have got my first win in BSB."

"We have worked hard for it and it is a great feeling now we have achieved what we knew we were capable of."

"I will use this experience to build on the rest of the season and I can't wait to get to Mallory Park in a couple of weeks and try to achieve another win for the team."



NEW LOOK: Ashford Town have ambitions to build a new sports village at Homelands

Ashford set for £8m new-look Homelands

FOOTBALL

ASHFORD Town are set to reveal their plans for an £8 million sports village at Homelands next week.

The club has plans to rebuild its stadium to a standard fit for the Football League.

A hotel, six football pitches, brand new 5,000-capacity stadium, indoor tennis centre, cycle track and fitness centre are all part of the hugely ambitious plans.

At a press conference at the club's ground next week, the Ryman Division One South side plan to unveil a record sponsorship deal with a well known national company who are to sponsor the Ashford Town kit for two seasons.

Manager Steve Lovell is to announce two further new signings to bolster his squad ahead of the new season. The former Wales international has been trying to bring in a new striker to replace outgoing forward Walid Matata.

He has this week been interested in signing Folkestone Invicta utility man Charlie Glyde.

The left-sided player spent time at Homelands on loan at the beginning of last season.

Lovell, who also signed him for Sittingbourne, said: "We have spoken to Folkestone and Charlie, and things are looking positive.

"He is a good lad who can play in a number of positions. He wants to come to us so I hope to get that sorted soon. Charlie will be a good acquisition for the club."

Biker to take on world's best at championships

BIKE TRIALS

SCOTT Wilson will be competing against the best riders across the globe in the World Bike Trials Championships in Italy this week.

The 18-year-old will travel to Val di Sole, Trentino to compete in the elite men's category. He will go into the event full of confidence after clinching a ninth place finish in the European Championships at Belgium earlier this month. He will be looking to eclipse last year's eighth place result at Val di Sole.

The Ashford rider has had a mixed start to the season, with a first place in the British Championship in April, but mistakes have cost him valuable places in Europe.

However, Wilson was one of two British riders to make the trip to an invitational event promoting the Olympics in China last month.

He will hope to impress after a strong showing in his debut season in the elite category last year. In his first full season in the men's British Championship, Wilson secured fifth place.

His highlight of the season was a stunning performance in Japan at a



WORLD TITLE: Scott Wilson is looking to eclipse his best-ever finish

World Championship event, where he finished third on the podium.

The rider, who took up the sport after watching his father compete in motorcycle trials, also secured podium places in Spain, Slovakia and Czech Republic.

The semi-finals for the event began yesterday and Wilson will hope to progress to the final, which takes place on Friday.



ACTION: Don't miss the thrills and spills of Twenty20

COMPETITION

Win tickets to see Twenty20 games

THE TWENTY20 Cup campaign started with a bang after Kent Spitfires' dramatic six wicket win over the Sussex Sharks last week.

KOS Media has once again teamed up with Twenty20 Cup official partner, npower, to give you a chance to watch the Spitfires defend their title, and with the chance of a lucrative Champions League spot at the end, it promises to be an even more eventful competition.

We're offering three lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the Kent home games this month:

Kent Vs Middlesex – Friday, June 20, at Beckenham

Kent Vs Essex – Sunday, June 22, at Beckenham

Kent Vs Surrey – Wednesday, June 25, at Canterbury

With all the skill of traditional cricket, Twenty20 is an action-packed three hour spectacle, making it the perfect way to spend a summer's evening.

All the counties start in regional groups, eight make the quarter-finals, and it's topped off by an exciting finals day at the Rose Bowl in Hampshire, with both teams knowing they will have earned a place in the Champions League with a chance of winning £2.5 million.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to 20/20 comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SP. The closing date is June 20, 2008.

Question: Which energy supplier is an official partner to the Twenty20 Cup?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073 if you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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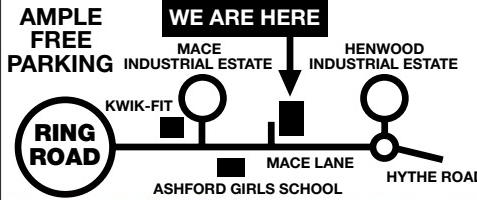
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